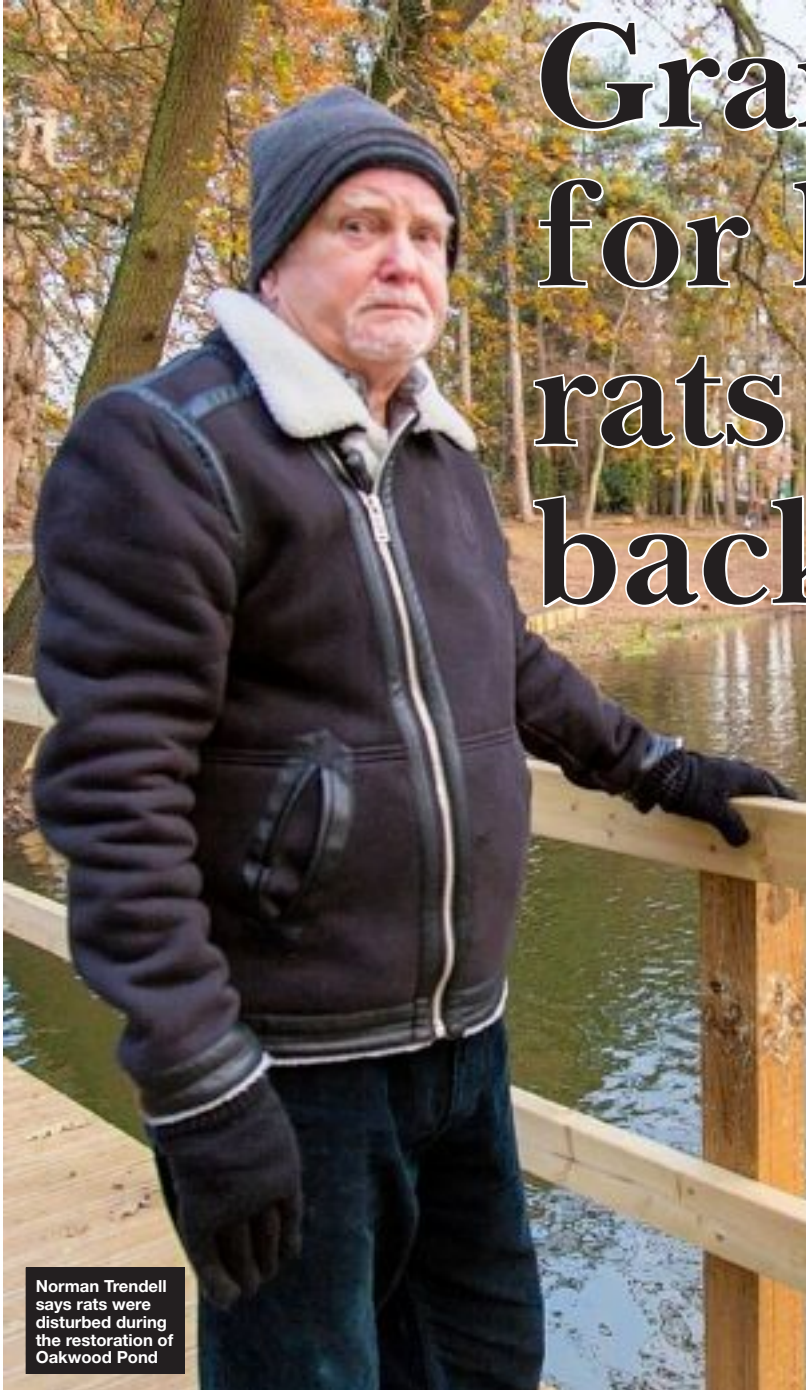


Thursday, December 7, 2017

local news all day every day essexlive.news/harlow

Price 50p where sold

Grandad's fear for kids after rats invade his back garden



Restoration of pond blamed for rodent problem

By **Sophie Finnegan**
sophie.finnegan@essexlive.news

A MAN from Harlow has "stopped letting grandchildren play in his garden" after it was invaded by rats when the council restored a nearby pond.

Norman Trendell, 82, from Upper Park, claims the restoration of Oakwood Pond disturbed the habitat of rats and this led them to invade local gardens.

Norman said: "I have lived here for 30 years and nothing like this has ever happened before."

"The council were renovating the pond. They have done a nice job, I have to say."

"But when they started to do it, they disturbed the rats that lived there because a lot of people would feed the fish and ducks and they would eat what was left."

"As soon as they started it I had rats coming into my garden, they have started going into my bird box to eat the food so my wife has had to stop

feeding them. Instead, when the family come around to visit, the kids can play on the lawn with the rats."

Harlow Council ploughed £80,000 into the restoration to transform the neglected pond into an aesthetic park feature.

Norman continued: "We are scared that they might start to come into our house. We have a lot of children coming round but we don't want the kids to play on the lawn with the rats."

"We were not very pleased because we feel like they [the council] should do something because it was them that started the problem. They have done nothing about it."

Norman Trendell says his garden has been invaded by rats



The work on the pond included building fishing platforms, removing trees and introducing new aquatic planting schemes.

Councillor Danny Purton, portfolio holder for Environment, said: "Unfortunately when major restoration work of this kind takes place it can disturb the local wildlife."

Control

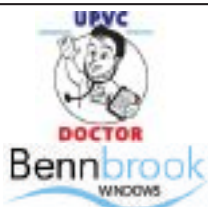
"We are getting reports of rats around Oakwood Pond and the cycle track. In response, a rodent control programme is in hand. A Pest Control Officer will be visiting the area to look at the boundary with local homes to see if rats are possibly entering gardens."

"We do charge residents for pest control treatments on private property."

"However, if we find that rats are linked to the pond area and the recent work they will be dealt with within our rodent control programme."

■ **Community News** page 14

Norman Trendell says rats were disturbed during the restoration of Oakwood Pond



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BRIEFING

in this week's paper...



Church-themed burger bar to open

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PICK UP POINTS

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■ Mulberry Green Estate, Station Road, Old Harlow	■ Haart, 4 West Gate, Harlow
■ Genesis, 3 High Street, Old Harlow	■ Future Let, 52 Market Street, Old Harlow
■ Kings, Unit 4, Church Langley Way, Harlow	■ Reyland Johnson, 1 Acorn Mews, Harlow
■ Kings, 19 East Gate, Harlow	■ Howick & Brooker, 1 High Street, Old Harlow
■ Geoffrey Matthews, 47 High Street, Old Harlow	■ Belvoir, 40 High Street, Old Harlow

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Distribution

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Phone 01582 470504
Email enquiries@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk

Newspaper sales

Manager Duncan Anderson
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Subscriptions (postal & home delivery) 0333 2028000

Leaflet Distribution

01582 470506

Photo Sales 0844 4060389

E-editions harlowstar.co.uk/e-edition.html

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THE TOP 10 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Paul Lamb and the King Snakes bring their energetic brand of blues to Harlow Cricket Club



TREE'S A CROWD

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: DUNMOW UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, NEW STREET, GREAT DUNMOW, FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 TO 10, 10AM TO 3PM

Come and see an array of decorated and glittering Christmas trees from local charities and organisations. Morning and afternoon refreshments will be available as well as a raffle if you're feeling lucky. Admission free. Donations will be welcome to the participating charities. For more information, call: 01371 872657

MIDWEEK TREAT

ROISIN QUINN WITH RUOCCO LANE: RHODES ART COMPLEX, 1-3 SOUTH ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 7.30PM

Vocalist and songwriter Roisin Quinn invites you to enjoy an evening of music from the artists and writers that inspired her, as well as performing some original material from her debut album.

Ruocco Lane will also be joining her and those attending should expect a mixture of soul, blues, pop, jazz, R n B and folk.

Free admission.

OH YES IT IS!

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS: RHODES ART COMPLEX, 1-3 SOUTH ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 TO SUNDAY JANUARY 6

After last year's box office hit, Cinderella, the Rhodes pantomime returns for Christmas 2017 with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in association with Phoenix Theatre Arts. The classic tale of Snow White includes a poisoned apple, a prince and a wicked queen.

Will Snow White ever break free from her curse? Get tickets (prices start from £17) to find out: Visit www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk/events/snow-white-and-the-seven-dwarfs-the-rhodes-pantomime/

UKULELE CONCERT

BISHOP'S STORTFORD UKULELE



See Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society perform on Saturday

SOCIETY: DUNMOW UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, NEW STREET, GREAT DUNMOW, SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 7PM

Enjoy a concert by local ukulele band, Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society. With members at all levels and some being experts and Yuletide refreshments on offer, this really is a fantastic event not to be missed. Tickets £10 each.

SANTA'S STORIES

AUDIENCE WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS: AUDLEY END HOUSE AND GARDENS, AUDLEY END, SAFFRON WALDEN, SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 TO SUNDAY 10, TIMES VARY BETWEEN 10AM AND 3PM

This one is suitable for all the family. Celebrate with Father Christmas this festive season as he tells tales of Christmas past and festive treats will be on offer to lucky visitors. There is an additional charge of £4 to meet Father Christmas. Tickets from £9.80. To book tickets, call: 0370 3331181

GET THE BLUES

PAUL LAMB AND THE KING SNAKES: HARLOW CRICKET CLUB, CHIPPINGFIELD, OLD HARLOW, FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 7.30PM

If you're interested in the blues scene, this gig will be perfect for you. Over the years, Paul has become known around the world as one of the foremost blues harmonica players performing with many famous blues

players.

He and his band have won countless awards and Paul himself has been featured in the British Blues Awards Hall of Fame.

With Chad Strentz on vocals and guitar, Andy Lamb playing dynamic guitar, Paul Lamb and the King Snakes promise you real blues, boogie, swing and good time jump, all of which make this act worth a watch.

Tickets £8 on the door.

WE GOT SOUL

AN EVENING WITH SOUL LADIES & THE COLLECTIVE:

SAWBRIDGEWORTH MEMORIAL HALL, THE FOREBURY, KNIGHT STREET, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 8PM

Soul Ladies & the Collective are an eight-piece soul band from London/Essex and take inspiration from Jocelyn Brown, Aretha Franklin, Luther Vandross and many other artists. The Soul Ladies have supported legendary artists including Billy Ocean and Showaddywaddy, they have also appeared on various radio stations including Time FM and Phoenix FM. Be prepared for an evening of singing and dancing full of soul, Motown and disco and remember to bring your own alcohol.

Tickets priced £16.50 each. Head to: www.wegotickets.com/event/418704

IT'S LUNCH TIME

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH: NOVOTEL LONDON STANSTED,

ROUND COPPICE ROAD, STANSTED AIRPORT, THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 12.30PM TO 3.30PM

Join like-minded businesses and hear from guest speaker, Brad Miller, chief operating officer London Stansted Airport, who will be sharing future plans of the airport at this festive lunch.

Tickets include a three-course meal, glass of wine, tea/coffee and a mince pie. Book a place from £38.

For further information and to book your tickets, head to: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/join-us-for-christmas-lunch-tickets-33249686708?aff=es2

CHRISTMAS STORY

LIVE NATIVITY: ST MARY'S CHURCH, THE CHARTERS, DUNMOW, SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 3PM

Follow Mary, Joseph, the donkey and sheep as they make their way to Bethlehem in this live re-enactment. Starting at the Town Square, by the library, performers and the audience will walk through the town to the stable in St Mary's car park where the Christmas story will be acted out and Christmas carols sung.

Afterwards make your way into St Mary's Church to enjoy some mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies whilst the Dunmow Wind Band play a selection of Christmas music. Free event.

FESTIVE CHEER

CHRISTMAS SPARKLE: ED'S GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND BAR, 9 MARKET HILL, SAFFRON WALDEN, SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 7.30PM TO 10.30PM

Saffron Walden Town Branch invites everyone to join in on this festive family-friendly event that will feature live entertainment, and a Christmas atmosphere to get everyone into the spirit.

Tickets include a welcome drink and platters of meat, cheese and vegetable delicacies.

Tickets are £15 per person, or £5 for under-12s.

To book, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-sparkle-tickets-3987565488?aff=es2

TV personalities will be joined by Santa and DJ for special festive appearance



Dan and James with their friends from series 21 of The Only Way Is Essex

Towie stars set to meet fans in Harlow pie and mash shop

By Tommy Wathen
newsdesk@essexlive.news

A PAIR of The Only Way Is Essex's most popular stars will be visiting a local Harlow pie and mash shop to meet fans this month.

Dan Edgar and James 'Lockie' Lock will be appearing at The Cockney Waffle in Harlow on Saturday, December 16, as part of a Christmas treat for the town's residents.

The reality stars will be at the pie and mash shop, which is located in Staple Tye shopping Mews, on Perry Road, between 1.30pm and 3pm.

During the event, DJ Sebadee, who performs regularly at The Sugar Hut in Brentwood, will be playing a variety of Christmas songs to get everyone into the festive mood.

Dan has already publicly promoted the event in a video that

was posted on The Cockney Waffle's Facebook page, where he said: "What's happening everyone - Dan Edgar from The Only Way Is Essex. Join me and Lockie on Saturday 16 December down at The Cockney Waffle. Come down and say hello. I'll see you all down there."

Owner

Speaking to the Star about the upcoming visit, The Cockney Waffle's 52-year-old owner Jo Morgan, from Sawbridgeworth, said: "My son-in-law owns All Star Entertainment and he has loads and loads of people on his books - like Katie Price and Callum Best.

"I thought that it would be nice to give something back to the customers as we will have been open a year in February, so it is a completely free event and I've got some little presents wrapped up

for the children when they meet Santa too.

"I wanted something nice for Essex - so Towie came to mind and Dan and Lockie were available and a lot of people like them.

"We've only got them for a limited amount of time as they are very busy men but I've also got Father Christmas coming down and a DJ from Sugar Hut to play some Christmas music for the kids."

"I'm going to offer them a free meal and get some pictures with them as they love it, plus I'm also currently trying to arrange two gold cards so they can come back whenever they want for the next year and have pie and mash with us."

■ For more information about The Cockney Waffle, visit their Facebook page at en-gb.facebook.com/CockneyWaffle

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Towie stars Dan Edgar and James Lock will be at the Cockney Waffle

Stores issue recall warnings

PARENTS are being warned about safety risks on children's products from high street retailers Marks & Spencer, Next and Toys R Us.

Several items, including coats and toys, are being recalled after potential problems were identified during safety checks.

Parents are urged to return the items to stores for a full refund.

■ Marks and Spencer

A design fault has been identified with pyjamas aimed at girls aged 7 to 16. While no injuries have been reported, the retailer found there is a possibility that the position of the drawstring on the garment could present a safety hazard.

The pyjamas being recalled are the Girls' Hoodie Check PJ's with product code T86/2027. They were on sale since September 30 and cost £18 to £22.

Customers who have purchased this product are asked to return it immediately to any M&S store (except Simply Food and Outlet stores), for a full refund.

Customer Services can be reached

on 0333 014 8555.

■ Next

A potential problem was identified with buttons on children's coats.

The coat passed the rigorous testing required but Next has since found a problem with the bulk production which saw buttons becoming detached and presenting a choking hazard.

Next is now recalling the following coats: Navy Hooded Coat (182560); Grey/Pink Fur Collar Coat (191228).

If you have bought one, call 0333 777 8185 to arrange a collection or return it to your local store.

■ Toys R Us

The retailer is recalling a toy ball as it could be a choking risk.

The Bruin Wiggle Ball's rubber knobs and plastic back could detach from the ball and be a choking hazard. The toy is identified by item number 067369 and model number 5F6342E.

Toys R Us advises parents and caregivers to keep the toy away from their children and return it to Babies R Us or Toys R Us for a refund.

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Event manager Paul Gordon with the Coca-Cola truck in Harlow

The Coca-Cola truck stops in town on tour

Big turnout greets the iconic red lorry

By Michael Mutch
michael.mutch@essexlive.news

YOU know the holidays are coming when the Coca-Cola Christmas truck arrives.

The iconic truck that symbolises the countdown to the festive season arrived in Harlow on Thursday (November 30), as part of its UK tour.

It will be visiting 42 locations across the country and was in Harlow's Market Square from 11am to 7pm. The day before, the truck was at the Victoria Plaza in Southend-on-Sea to mark its first stop in the county. The day after its pit stop in Harlow, the truck headed towards West Thurrock for Christmas shoppers at Lakeside to enjoy.

Coca-Cola warned that because the truck is extremely popular, queuing times could be in excess of an hour or more at busy times, so people were advised to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Travelled

The Coca-Cola Truck tour is now in its seventh year and has travelled over 700,000 miles – equivalent to travelling around the world 29 times.

Event manager Paul Gordon was there at the Coca-Cola truck's stop in Harlow to make sure everything went to plan.

He said: "We are Christmassy. This morning we were setting up, we had snow – real snow – we have our own snow cannon which we did need to use, we'll use that later on today."

"We had a big turnout to start with. It's gone a bit quiet now but this afternoon should pick up, and we'll have a light show which will be on at about 4.30 or 5 o'clock."

"People come down and they can get their picture taken, and it'll go on the side of the truck."

Emma and Chloe Savill, pictured above, from Harlow, were excited to see the truck again.

When asked about what she made of it, Emma said it was "brilliant".

She added: "It's just magic when it all lights up."

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Customers at burger restaurant promised a 'unique' experience by owner



Dining venture will have church-theme

By Lottie O'Neill

lottie.oneill@essexlive.news

A NEW burger restaurant with a quirky theme is coming to Harlow.

The Burger Priest, which is a church-themed restaurant, will be opening at The Harvey Centre on Monday.

This will be the third The Burger Priest to open nationally and is designed to be reminiscent of a church.

It will be situated at 43 The Harvey Shopping Centre and bring 20 new jobs into Harlow.

Diners will get the chance to sit on church pews and choose their food from hymn board menus.

The toilet facilities are confession boxes and the entire atmosphere will allow customers to feel as if they are dining in a real church.

The franchise restaurant will offer a takeaway service, and a



wide range of premium burgers made from 100 per cent Aberdeen Angus beef.

Keith Fox, national franchise manager at The Burger Priest, said: "We have opened two restaurants nationally. It is a unique

theme. The Harvey Centre is a fantastic leisure and retail complex and we are delighted to be situated there.

"The restaurant is costing £250,000 to open and we have created 20 jobs in the process which is excellent for the local economy.

"We believe it will be a fantastic success in Harlow and we can't wait to open in December."

Fresh

The handmade burgers will be preservative, hormone, steroid and gluten free, and be made fresh on site and fully traceable.

They will be served on a brioche bun with fresh salad and hand cut fries, with gluten free buns also being an option.

Milkshakes made with organic ice-cream provided by Marshfield Farm in the Cotswolds, and a number of organic wines and craft beers available.

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Emergency crews rescue horses after A-road crash

TWO horses were caught up in a crash on the A120 on Sunday, November 26, according to the Essex Fire and Rescue Service.

Crews were called to a serious collision on the A120 between Stansted and Dunmow at around 5.45pm involving two vehicles - one of which was a horsebox.

Upon arrival, firefighters found one man was trapped in his vehicle and that two horses were trapped in the horsebox, which was still standing on four wheels.

An air ambulance attended the scene alongside a major incident lorry.

The firefighters worked to release the man from his vehicle and left him in the care of the East of England Ambulance Service.

Essex County Fire and Rescue



Two horses were caught up in a crash on the A120

Service's Animal Rescue Unit worked closely with a vet and the horses' owner to assess the condition of the animals and release them into the care of the vet at 7.35pm.

Police were also there to assist with diverting traffic through Dunmow.

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A wide range of quality goods were on sale at the festive fair at Burnt Mill Academy

First community yuletide fair draws a big crowd to academy

Thirty stalls offered luxury gifts and quality products alongside charity activities

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By **Star staff**
newsdesk@esslive.news

HUNDREDS of people flocked to the first community Christmas fayre in Harlow.

The doors of Burnt Mill Academy's main hall were thrown open as the Club Foot Community Christmas Fair came to town for the first time.

More than 30 festive stalls offered luxury gifts, homemade cheese and chutney, cakes, stocking fillers, custom art canvases, as well as a raffle, tombola and children's games.

Leaders

Burnt Mill students and house leaders ran stalls to raise funds for their school events, while Herts & Essex Community Farm ran games for their charity.

The recent Battle of the Bands contest winners, Monocroma – made up of Year 9 to 11 students from Burnt Mill, Izzy Baker, Amber Butcher, Katy Thomas and Libby Slow – took to the stage to keep the crowds entertained, with drinks served from Bar Humbug.



Smiles during one of the activities which raised funds for a number of charities

Adam Smith, Club Foot event organiser, said: "We wanted to expand and improve on the usual school fete and try to attract more people from outside of the school's families and friends. We were able to attract a great variety of stalls to take part in this first event with us.

"There were a lot of comments made about the high quality of products on offer. The feedback has been great, so we will definitely be looking to make it a regular event."



More people from outside the school's traditional support attended the festive fair in the academy hall

Relief as town's Toys 'R' Us is not in jeopardy

Harlow store not among the 26 closing

By Richard Duggan
richard.duggan@essexlive.news

HUNDREDS of Toys 'R' Us employees are at risk of redundancy after the firm revealed it planned to shut 26 shops.

In a statement released on Monday, a spokesman for the international retailer confirmed the move was part of its project to 'transform' the popular toy superstore amid fierce online competition.

As many as 800 members of staff are at risk of losing their jobs as the firm tackles "its warehouse-style stores that are too expensive to run".

There is a Toys 'R' Us store at the Queensgate Centre in Edinburgh Way, Harlow, but fortunately it is not among the shops that will be closing.

The announcement comes three months after the big box retailer filed for bankruptcy protection in the US and Canada after admitting it had been struggling with £3.6 billion debt and com-



Toys 'R' Us employees are not at risk of redundancy in Harlow

petition from the likes of Amazon and Walmart, reports Mirror Online. At the time, it said stores in the UK would be unaffected by changes in the US, adding that it's "business as usual".

However, on Friday rumours began to circulate that 'hundreds' of jobs could be at risk over potential Toys 'R' Us closures.

Up to 26 branches are to be closed in spring next year, with business as usual expected through the Christmas period and into the New Year.

A comment said the closures are part of a "plan to transform the business to meet the evolving needs of customers in today's UK retail market".

It added that there will be no

disruption for customers shopping through the Christmas and New Year period.

Steve Knights, of Toys 'R' Us UK, said: "All of our stores across the UK remain open for business as normal through Christmas and well into the New Year. Customers can also continue to shop online and there will be no changes to our returns policies or gift cards across this period."

Sad

Hannah Maundrell, editor in chief of money.co.uk, said: "It's sad but not surprising that Toys 'R' Us are closing stores.

"Since filing for bankruptcy in the US in September all eyes have been on the toys retailer and with the current economic climate, their out-of-town stores simply have not been able to compete with the online market space.

"It's undoubtedly distressing news for employees of Toys 'R' Us and their families, especially because their fates with the business are currently uncertain."



Burnt Mills Academy pupils with their food for the food bank

Pupils do their bit to help homeless



Pupils collecting donations at Tesco in Edinburgh Way

THE homeless and those who are struggling this Christmas will be kept warm and fed, thanks to thoughtful Harlow families.

Students and the community of Burnt Mill Academy have got in the festive giving spirit by collecting coats and food for two charities.

Five sacks of coats have been donated to the Wrap Up London campaign, while dozens of boxes of food have been handed over to Harlow Food Bank.

Students are also volunteering their time to collect more

donations from shoppers at Tesco, in Edinburgh Way, for the food bank.

Kayleigh Trainor, head of humanities, said: "We have regularly supported the food bank, but this is the first time we have collected for Wrap Up London.

"We want our students to be aware there are people around them who are not as privileged as themselves; that could include their friends in school without them even realising. It's showing them that, as a school, we can support people in this way."

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The county in line for a cold snap by weekend

ESSEX is set to face an Arctic blast bringing sub-zero temperatures and freezing snow showers.

A bitterly cold snap will bully its way southwards from today (Thursday) with temperatures starting to plunge when the raw Arctic blast grips the country.

Significant wind chill will make it feel well below freezing with snow showers affecting western and eastern areas. Widespread frosts will also develop through the weekend as winds start to ease.

Bitter

It is set to remain bitter well into next week with dry and bright weather coupled with temperatures in low single figures.

A spokesperson for The Weather Channel said that low pressure would bring "very unsettled weather with heavy rain and strong winds".

The spokesperson added: "Heavy snow will fall over the Scottish mountains on Thursday and it will turn much colder in a brisk northerly wind with frequent and blustery wintry showers."

Snow is forecast to fall in parts of Scotland, Wales, the Midlands, north-east and north-west England.

A covering is also possible at low levels in the south by the weekend.

Motorway left blocked as vehicle bursts into flames

Fire service called to tackle car fire which resulted in chaos on M11



By Tommy Wathen
newsdesk@essexlive.news

THE M11 was blocked near Harlow on Friday afternoon after a car burst into flames.

The car in question was on fire on the M11 northbound carriageway at junction 6, which links the M11 to the M25.

Essex Fire and Rescue Service were at the scene, attending to the vehicle and to safely extinguish the fire.

Incident

All traffic was held in the area whilst the emergency services dealt with the incident.

Congestion built up in the area, with reports of queuing traffic back to junction 5 (A1168 Loughton).

At around 3.30pm, the burnt-out car had reportedly been extinguished and moved onto the hard shoulder.

Delays were expected as congestion cleared.

This picture, taken by Highways England, shows smoke billowing across the road after the M11 car fire on Friday afternoon

Photo: Crown copyright



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Man denies kidnap and assault

40-year-old kept in custody

By **Sophie Finnegan**
sophie.finnegan@essexlive.news

A MAN from Harlow has denied kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

Darren Sellen, 40, is accused of three counts including kidnapping, kidnapping to commit a sexual offence and sexual assault of a girl under the age of 13.

On November 2, Sellen allegedly took a girl aged 12 against her will and conspired

to commit a sexual offence.

It is also alleged Sellen assaulted the girl by touching her sexually.

Pleaded

At Chelmsford Crown Court, Darren Sellen, who appeared via video link, pleaded not guilty to all three charges.

Judge Emma Peters adjourned the case with the trial listed to start on April 30 in the new year.

He remains in custody.



Chelmsford Crown Court where Darren Sellen appeared via video link

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Specsavers founder Dame Mary Perkins at the opening of the 800th Specsavers store

DON'T DELAY, BOOK AN EYE TEST TODAY

With opticians on every high street and a growing number of out of town locations, keeping on top of your eye health has never been more convenient.

But despite that, a survey* has revealed that a quarter of UK adults are still risking sight loss by not having an eye test every two years, as recommended.

The research carried out by Specsavers and Royal National Institute of Blind People also identified that 250 people nationally start losing their sight every day despite half of all cases being avoidable. Routine eye tests are key in detecting and managing issues early.

Specsavers has just opened its 800th UK and Irish store in Sainsbury's in Preston – part of its ongoing drive to make eye care more accessible. It is the fifth outlet Specsavers has opened within a supermarket this year, with more to follow.

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff cut the

ribbon to the 800th store and popped in for an eye test. The cricketer turned broadcaster said: 'So many of us take our sight for granted. To see how far eye care has developed since Specsavers opened its first store is incredible.'

Specsavers features the latest clinical technology and highly qualified and professional teams. Complete glasses start at £25 with two for one available from £69. A variety of designer styles, including Kylie Minogue Eyewear, BOSS Orange and the new Balmain range are also available.

Eye tests can be booked online. Customers that have undergone an eye test elsewhere are welcome to bring in a valid prescription. Specsavers offers home eye care to those who cannot visit a store unaided. Free hearing tests are also available at Specsavers.

* The State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017: A Year in Review

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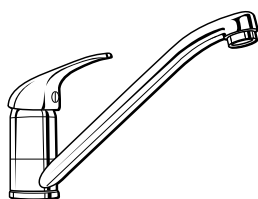
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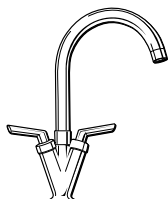
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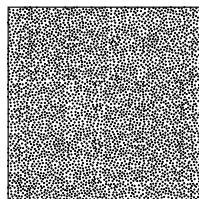
Image for illustration purposes only. Price includes cabinets, doors, appliances, sink, tap, worktop and tiles pictured. Some items are not available for collection in-store and are special order only. Please ask in-store.



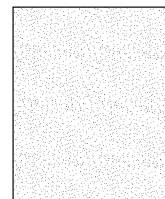
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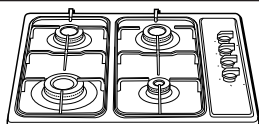
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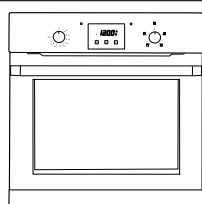
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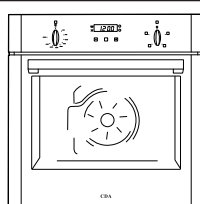
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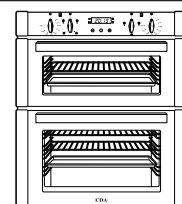
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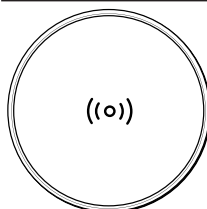
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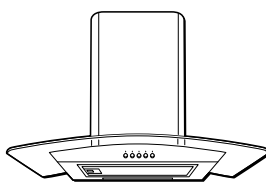
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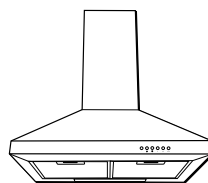
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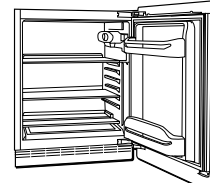
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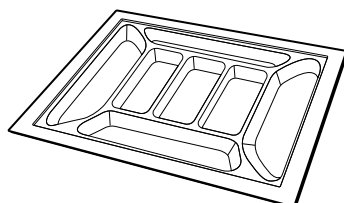
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Chimney Hood
Stainless steel. Available through Special Orders.
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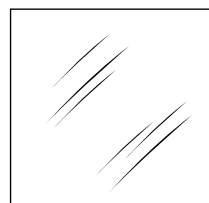
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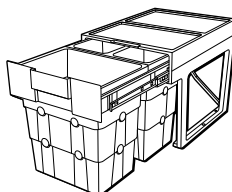
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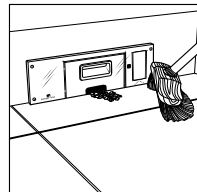
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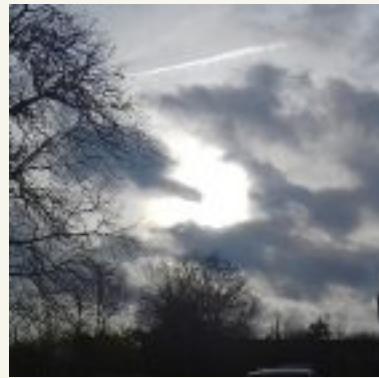
READERS' PICTURES



Rob Delaney took this picture of a stag and deer in Harlow



Darren Carter took this picture overlooking the M11 near Harlow



Elza Rossouw took this photo of the sky over Harlow



Ramya Ashok, from Harlow, took this picture along the River Stort

NAVY REUNIONS

Ex-servicemen back in touch

REGULAR readers of the letters columns of this newspaper, will recall the insertion of a recent letter of mine, explaining the camaraderie of those who had served in the Royal Navy. I explained that this could be re-lived at the various reunions held around the country and that these were listed on the www.rnshipmates.co.uk site under "Reunions."

Well thank you to all of the local newspapers; you have certainly scored and made a lot of ex-servicemen think back

again. They have emailed me on royalnavyreunions@gmail.com and the Secretaries of various associations have contacted me; consequence?

A lot more reunions are listed. I can see a lot more old shipmates re-living their past experiences!

But that is not all, following a request about a Reunions Listing for those who have served in the Royal Air Force; there is now one available by email.

Not many on it at present, so ex RAF? Let's have those reunions emailed to me on royalairforcereunions@gmail.com date.... which association.... where... who to contact.

Mike Crowe
Sandown, Isle of Wight

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The Star is unable to accept handwritten letters. Please send your views by one of the following methods.

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POLITICS

Budget makes poor worse off

YET again the poor will be worse off after the Budget. It is

estimated that the four million children living in poverty in the UK, one of the wealthiest countries of the world, will at the present rate rise by a further million.

Why is this?
The Government claims that the raising of the income tax

threshold has helped the poorest. No it hasn't.

When it was first raised the poorest benefited nothing, for their income was already so low they didn't pay income tax.

Those who were paying a small amount were slightly better off that year but of course the following year gained nothing when the threshold was again raised.

The wealthier have gained each time the threshold was raised and continue to do so.

The main problem however was that most of the poorest were on benefit and those whose income went up slightly in the gain from income tax found that for every £1 they gained, 65p was taken from their rent rebate and a further 20p from their

council tax allowance, leaving them 15p.

On top of this, prices rose, and benefits and services were cut, making life increasingly difficult.

One other result of the change is that the poor who give to charity but no longer pay income tax, (though of course they pay other taxes), can no longer gift aid and have 25p added to every pound of their gifts.

So the £ of the poor is worth less than the £ of the rich, despite the fact that the poor give proportionately more to charity than do the rich and at greater sacrifice.

Reverend Dennis LI Nadin
M Ed
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COMMUNITY

HARLOW
NEWS IN PRINT & ONLINE

Neglected parkland brought back to life

Historic Harlow parkland that has been part of the town for centuries is being restored thanks to an £80,000 project funded by Harlow Council and Essex County Council.

Oakwood Pond, situated near Princess Alexandra Hospital in Little Parndon, has been transformed thanks to a project being completed by Harlow Council in partnership with the county council, contractors and local volunteers.

The pond and surrounding area has a rich history, possibly dating back as far as the 1100s as a 'stew pond' for the Canons Brook monastery and later forming part of the grounds of Upper House in the 1700s.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the area has been neglected and had fallen into disrepair; however the work carried out has helped to unearth this beautiful area once again.

Restoration

The site is now on the way to returning to its former state, with the original parkland being restored, flood protection for homes in Canons Brook and Fold Croft in place and the general environment being improved for both wildlife and local people.

Work began on the first phase in September and ran for around six weeks. Council officers, contractors and volunteers all worked together to:

- Remove excess trees and vegetation, opening up the area again and reinstating the

original pond for local flooding prevention

- Reintroduce the water supply to the pond by reconnecting spring water

- Introduce new aquatic plants

- Create a diverse range of water, vegetation and wood based habitats for wildlife and further restore the parkland

- Improve access for the local community to and through the site from Upper Park to Harlow Town Centre and the hospital

- Create disabled access points, fishing platforms and a new 360m access loop/footpath around the pond

- Build a 30m boardwalk across a section of the pond

- Install a number of bird boxes around the pond

- Create a balancing pond planted with reeds to add to the biodiversity and filter the incoming water supply

The new fishing platforms, which are available and suitable for people of all abilities to use, will also be used by the Stort Valley Angling Society to help teach young people and people with disabilities to fish when the pond is ready to be restocked.

To celebrate the work which has taken place, a special opening event has been held, which was attended by councillors, volunteers, contractors and local residents.

Mike, who is one of the volunteers working on the site, said: "It's been hard work, but very satisfying when you consider the state of it several



The team at Oakwood Pond

months ago. The whole place has been opened up, more wildlife is going to come in, the fishing is going to come back – it's a neglected piece of Harlow that has now been brought back to life."

Councillor Danny Purton, Portfolio Holder for Environment, said: "Oakwood Pond will be a place for residents to enjoy once again and provide educational opportunities for local people. It is also another great example of local volunteers and council staff working

together to improve our town.

"The plan is that this project will pave the way to make further improvements to the area in future. Once the water levels have increased and a natural food supply has been established, the pond can be restocked with fish.

"This is an area that has unfortunately been neglected over the years but, by working together with local organisations we can make this place really special and somewhere for everyone to enjoy."



Oakwood Pond has been restored

Home Secretary honours community safety officer

The hard work and commitment of one of Harlow Council's Community Safety officers has been recognised at a national awards ceremony.

Faith Watson was runner-up in the Police Support Volunteer category at the Home Office Lord Ferrers Awards held on Tuesday November 28.

The Lord Ferrers Awards recognise the contribution police volunteers make to policing. Faith had been shortlisted for an individual award and attended a special awards event hosted at Millbank Tower in London.

This year there were 600 nominations for the awards which is twice as many as last year.

Nine winners were announced at the ceremony which was attended by the Home Secretary Amber Rudd and Minister of State for Policing and the Service, Nick Hurd.

As part of Faith's role she is a Hate Crime Ambassador and she was nominated for her contribution and commitment to the Harlow Incident Reporting Centre's project.



Faith holding her award with her husband Ian

A proud Faith said: "It was an amazing experience to be selected from over 600 nominations. I met some amazing people and felt very humbled, it was something that I will never forget."

Councillor Emma Toal, Portfolio Holder for Youth & Community, said: "We are very proud of Faith and what she has achieved. She is one of many hard working officers we have in the council who work with other organisations to make a difference to others."

The Stop the Hate partnership, which raises understanding, awareness and encourages the reporting of Hate Crime in Essex, tweeted: "Well done Faith keep up the great work."



The Passmore girls' U14 football team

Passmores outstanding teamwork

The sporting success of Passmores Academy teams continues with another win.

The Girls' U14 football team played an away match against Frances Bardsley Academy in Romford on Wednesday November 22, in a bid to win a place in the quarter finals of the Essex Cup.

In a strong start to the match, Passmores A was first to score. But the opposing team fought back to equalise and kept the

pressure on throughout the game. With one Passmores goal being disallowed and the result at full-time resting at 3-all, team coach Miss Conway and the players knew a change of tactics would be necessary to secure a win during extra-time.

The final score was 3-5, with goals being scored by four separate players: Gracie, Connie and Lauren who scored one goal apiece and Charis, who scored twice. The girls demonstrated outstanding

teamwork but it was Gracie who was named Player of the Match. Midfielder Maisie said: "Miss Conway told us before the match that this team had never been beaten, so we were a bit worried. But we just went out and played our best. We're really excited to play in the next round."

This is the same dynamic team who battled through to the U13 quarter finals last year, narrowly losing out in the latter stages of the competition.

HARLOW

Photographic Society

THIS December Harlow Photographic Society will be holding its annual Photographic Exhibition in Harlow's Town Centre Library. The exhibition is open until December 30. Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm. Wednesdays, Sundays and Christmas Day closed. Entrance is free.

OLD HARLOW

Blues gig

PAUL Lamb and the King Snakes will be playing at Harlow Cricket Club, Chippingfield, Old Harlow, CM17 0DJ on Friday December 8. Doors at 7.30pm and tickets are £8 on the door.

ROYDON

Saturday market

ROYDON market is on Saturday, December 9, 10am-2pm in the Village Hall CM19 5HH. Bread, cheese, eggs, chutneys, meat, cakes, sweets, a gin stall, food trailer (www.lekkerpoffertjes.co.uk), clothes, jewellery, gifts, soft furnishings, wood turning, Forever Living, cards and historical maps and photos will be with us. Free entry. Look forward to seeing you there.

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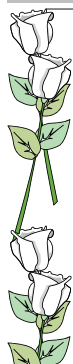
Birthday Greetings	Bereavements	Bereavements	Bereavements	Bereavements	Bereavements
<p>LOOK WHO'S 80!</p> <p>HENSON Pat Happy 80th Birthday for December 9th. Hope you have a good day. Lots of love from Perry, Avril, Biddy, Chloe, Millie, Samuel, Jamie, Bentley (Woof Woof), and the Budgies (Tweet tweet) xxx PS Don't forget to put the Bins out</p>	<p>Winifred May DAVIS (née Stanley) Sadly passed away peacefully on 17th November 2017, aged 81. Beloved wife to Peter and loving mum to Nigel and Andrew. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral to be held on Monday 11th December 2017, 3:00pm at St. Mary's, Churchgate Street, then 4:00pm at Parndon Wood Crematorium. Wake at The Queens Head, Churchgate Street. Family flowers only. Donations to Asthma UK at www.justgiving.com/winifreddavis. Enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare, 20 High Street, Old Harlow, CM17 0DW. Tel: 01279 441444</p>	<p>Ammon Charles KING of Berden. Funeral service will take place at Cambridge Crematorium West Chapel on Friday 8th December at 11.15am. All enquiries to Peasgood & Skeates tel no 01799 523314.</p>	<p>To make a donation for a loved one resting with DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS you can make a donation by visiting the In Memory pages at www.drobinson.co.uk</p>	<p>Laurent Mathieu RUFFA Died suddenly on 30th November 2017, Aged 42 yrs in Marseille, France. Beloved only Grandson of the late George and Violet Harman. Dearly loved son of heartbroken Jeannot and Margaret Ruffa. Loving brother to Claire and her husband Marcel and a truly caring, brilliant Uncle to their children, Enrique, Esteban and Victoria. And a very much loved nephew and Godson of Rosalyn. So dearly loved and so sadly missed by so many. But now at peace.</p>	<p>SHARE YOUR LOVING MEMORIES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS ONLINE TODAY COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE</p>
<p>Bereavements</p> <p>DESBOROUGH ANN Of Hundon Passed away peacefully following a short illness bravely borne whilst under the care and support of the St. Nicholas Hospice team. Dearly loved Mum of Timothy, Donna, Rebecca, Nathan and Aaron. Adored Nan of Hannah, Peter, Jake C, Devon, Matthew, Jacob, William and Teddy and Great-Nanny to Elsie-Rose, Alfred, George, Henry and Arthur. Former Teacher at Harlow College for 20 years, she will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral Service to take place at West Suffolk Crematorium on Thursday 21st December at 3.45pm. No flowers please, but if desired, donations may be made payable to St. Nicholas Hospice Care and sent c/o Peasgood & Skeates, 12-14 Queen Street, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 9EF or made via Ann's personal 'In Memory Page' at www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk</p>	<p>Violet Patricia EDLINGTON (Nee Hoy) In loving memory. Passed away peacefully on 27th November 2017. Much loved and will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to be held at St Mary's Church, Great Dunmow, on Friday 22nd December at 1.30pm. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Son, Great Dunmow, 01371 874518.</p> <p>YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONLINE</p>	<p>Teresa MUNN (Mary) Sadly passed away on November 28th. Beloved wife of the late George, much loved mum to Michael, Carol, Terry, Peter, Catherine, Robert & Paul. Nan to her 16 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Teresa's funeral will take place at The Church of the Assumption, Mulberry Green on Friday 15th December at 12-00 noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Parkinson UK or British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to Masterson Funeral Home Tel: 01279 626238</p>	<p>Edie PETTITT Peacefully passed away on 4th December 2017 aged 75 years. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Flowers welcome or donations to "The British Heart Foundation" or Via Web In Memory Page www.drobinson.co.uk. All Funeral enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons. TEL : 01279 655477</p>	<p>Robert SALMON (Rocky) Sadly passed away on Monday 27th November 2017 after a short illness, aged 66. Much loved Father, Granddad and Brother. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Thursday 14th December 2017 at 11:30am. Donations, if desired, can be made to Cancer Research UK or St Clare Hospice.</p>	<p>Herbert Edward WOOD "Eddie" Sadly passed away on Friday 24th November 2017 aged 86 years. His funeral service will be held at St Andrew's Church, North Weald on Monday 11th December at 12:00 Midday Followed by a burial in North Weald Bassett Cemetery. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations made payable to 'RNLI', may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990 Alternatively, please visit the 'In Memory' page at www.drobinson.co.uk</p>
<p>Sylvia ATHERTON Loved and adored by her family, slipped away peacefully on 29.11.17; Missed but always remembered by all who knew her. Thanksgiving Service to be held 19.12.17 at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford at 2pm. No flowers please, donations to the MS Society via Daniel Robinson and Sons Memory Page: http://www.drobinson.co.uk/in-memory-pages</p>	<p>Michael FERRIS Sadly passed away on Tuesday 28th November 2017 aged 79 Years. He will be greatly missed by all his Family & Friends. His funeral service will be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Thursday 28th December at 10.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, made payable to R.S.P.C.A may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990 Alternatively, please visit his 'In Memory' page at www.drobinson.co.uk</p>	<p>Veronica PIPER "Vera" 1929 - 2017 Passed away peacefully on 25th November, she will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on 12th December at 2.30pm. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Tel: 01279 655477</p>	<p>Pat RINTOUL Passed away on 30th November 2017, aged 87 years. Much loved Mum, Nan and Great Nan. For funeral details please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990</p>	<p>Barbara HILTON Passed away peacefully aged 87 yrs. on 24th. November in the Lister Hospital. A much loved friend who will be greatly missed. Requiem Mass on 18th December at 11.30 am. at St Elizabeth's Chapel Perry Green, Much Hadham. Donations in lieu of flowers please to Bowel Cancer UK. c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford. CM23 3AL or via web in Memory page www.drobinson.co.uk</p>	<p>Joyce Lillian May BIRD Passed away on 28th November 2017 aged 96 years. A very kind lady who will be sadly missed by all family and friends. For all funeral enquiries, please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishops Stortford CM23 3AL Tel: 01279 655477</p>
<p>SHARE A DECADE OF MEMORIES WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS</p> <p>family-announcements.co.uk/essex</p>	<p>To make a donation for a loved one resting with DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS Please visit the In Memory pages at: www.drobinson.co.uk</p> <p>Wych Elm, Harlow, Essex (01279) 426990 7981 South Street, Bishop's Stortford (01279) 655477 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth (01279) 722436</p>				

Acknowledgements

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Christine (Chris) LOMAS

Passed away 15 September 2017
Vic Lomas and the family of Chris Lomas, wish to extend our sincere thanks for the condolences and messages of support that we have received. We also want to thank everyone for their donations to St Clare's Hospice in Harlow.

In Memoriam

Barbara May MACKAY

7 - 12 - 2016

I lie awake at night when the world's asleep,
I take a walk down memory lane,

With tears upon my cheek,
No one sees the broken heart
That lies beyond the smile,
No one knows the loneliness,
That's with me all the while.
No matter how life changes,
No matter what I do,
a special place within my heart,
Is always there for you.

All my love, forever and always
your ever loving husband
Terry



PAULINE HATWELL

11-12-08
In my thoughts
24/7.

Love and
Cherish you,
forever.

Bill & Family



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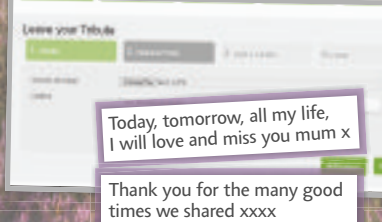


SLOMINSKI Hilda — A dear Mum & Nan, Died 5/12/08. Love you always. Love Marlene, Carl, Steven & family xxx

WILLIAMS PC Robin — Suddenly December 6th 1988. Always in our thoughts, love you always. Amanda, Helen, Lee and Jenni Williams.

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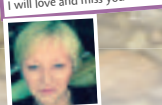


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our site, you can leave
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add a picture today
completely free of charge.

Thank you for the many good
times we shared xxxx

Today, tomorrow, all my life,
I will love and miss you mum x



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Patricia and Derek READ

Everyday in some small
way

Memories of you come
our way

Though absent, you are
always near

Still loved, still missed
and very dear

All our love

Kev & Angie xx

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FAMILY MATTERS

CHILDREN'S
BOOK OF THE WEEK

THE MAGIC MISFITS
by Neil Patrick Harris
Egmont, hardback £12.99, ebook £3.20

★★★★★
YEP, it's by Barney! For non-How I Met Your Mother fans, this is actor and comedian Neil Patrick Harris' debut fiction for kids, and you can certainly hear him in the prose.

The Magic Misfits follows Carter, whose vanished parents have been replaced by his intimidating, self-serving Uncle Sly, around whom Carter tip-toes, a lot. Uncle Sly has involved Carter in his pickpocketing racket, swindling people out of money by distracting them with magic tricks.

Sick of bamboozling people for profit, however excellent his illusions, Carter finally finds the courage to scarper, and luckily falls into the welcoming arms of a cohort of fellow magicians.

It's got pace and wit as you'd expect from Harris (check out the amusing mathematical table of contents for a start), but at times it lacks pizzazz, falling into routine ruminations on friendship and finding your people.

However, it's got spark, and budding magicians will certainly pick up a few trips.

PRODUCT
OF THE WEEK

AS far as we're concerned, it's not officially the festive period until Gap's striped collection explodes in stores. You can match

your whole family in the colourful range of cosy knits and bobble hats covered in lovely lines.

L to R: Hat £12.95; jumper £18.95; jacket £29.95; dress £26.99; jacket £29.95, leggings £19.95, in stores and at gap.co.uk



Don't know what gift to get your teenager? Let this **cool kid** help

IT'S never easy to buy gifts for teens and tweens, as their must-have items seem to change daily. But if you're looking for inspiration on what to buy a relative or friend in that age group this Christmas, Jenk Oz, can help.

Jenk is the 12-year-old CEO of iCoolKid, the UK's biggest website for eight to 15 year olds, and he's put together his top 10 picks on the coolest presents to buy for teens and tweens like him. Follow his advice to ensure happy teenage faces when your gift is unwrapped. Here is the iCoolKid top 10 cool Christmas gifts guide:

1 X DRONE PRO 720P QUADCOPTER £49.99, Maplin

THIS drone, with a removable HD camera, has a transmission range of up to 80m and seven minutes of flight time. Use it both indoors and outdoors. Jenk says: "Drones are still very much on the cool list for 2017, and luckily, prices have become much more reasonable. This Quadcopter is one of my very top picks."



LISA SALMON asks 12-year-old website CEO and tech guru Jenk Oz for his personal top 10 gifts for teens and tweens as the Christmas period nears

2 JARRE AEROBULL NANO PORTABLE BLUETOOTH WIRELESS SPEAKER £79, Currys PC World

NOT only does this Bluetooth speaker have a battery life of up to eight hours, it also looks like a dog wearing shades and comes in red, black or white.

Jenk says: "This funky, mini-speaker promises to deliver sound and quality despite being pocket-size. Complete with dogs in retro sunglasses - what's not to love?"

3 LK+ LASER KEYBOARD & POWER BANK, £69, Prezybox

SIMPLY place the LK+ Laser Keyboard on a flat surface and watch the QWERTY keyboard magically appear. Connect the device through either a USB or Bluetooth.

Jenk says: "I think this is a great gift for

anyone who loves to type on the go, but finds their phone keyboard super fiddly."

4 PICO PROJECTOR, £39.99, Amazon

THIS LED mini-projector can display pictures, movies, videos and games on a 1.5m screen.

Jenk says: "What could be cooler than your own cinema in your bedroom?"

5 FAIRGROUND CANDY GRABBER, £34.99, Very

INSERT a fake or real coin, the music plays and you have to grab as many sweets as you can with the grabber before the music stops.

Jenk says: "This is a great way of adding a challenge into Christmas sweet eating," says Jenk, "and it will make favourite sweets last longer."



RICHARD IRVINE

DOUBLE
TROUBLE
FOR A
FIRST-TIME
DAD OF TWINS



You can't knock the NHS... and it seems

THE mysterious case of the missing testicle was nearing a conclusion.

Little Thomas was booked in for an operation to fix his hernia. It was a double inguinal hernia, which affects 30% of premature babies, and of those cases roughly 15% are a double hernia.

There's always something comforting about a common condition. Give me an illness half of the population has any day, rather than a doctor scratching their head, and saying 'this is the first time I've ever seen this, I'll get the professor'.

Technically, it's hard to

describe an inguinal hernia but imagine the testicle as a plum on a tree branch, which is actually a blood vessel, and the intestine as a large snake. The snake (intestine) will weigh the branch (blood vessel) down moving the plum (testicle).

The consultant said there was more to it than that and he wasn't sure they even have snakes in countries with plum trees. However, he was very confident the operation would be a success, although decided to outline some terrifying things, which can go wrong, in a minuscule minority of cases.

He also explained Thomas would spend the night in hospital and asked which one of us would be staying with him.

We knew he'd be staying but assumed we'd leave hospital late at night and come back the next morning. And this might make me a bad person but I was quite looking forward to a night's sleep with just one baby crying.

After a brief discussion in which Victoria decided I'd be the one sleeping on a sofa in a hospital room full of bleeping machines, it was time.

Strangely, I wasn't anxious, concerned maybe but the





iCoolKid
CEO Jenk Oz

6 CUSTOM SKATEBOARD priced from £62.34, Skatehut

A VARIETY of cool, ready-built custom skateboards which Skatehut says are "Built and ready to Shred." Whatever that means...

Jenk says: "If you have a skateboard enthusiast in the family, look no further," says Jenk.

7 HISY BLUETOOTH CAMERA REMOTE, £16.95, Apple

PUT your iPhone down, step as far as 27.4m away from it, and snap yourself with this remote 'selfie button', which comes with a stand and a headphone jack charm.

Jenk says: "All you have to do is hook the button up to your iPhone via Bluetooth, step away and start snapping."

8 SPROCKET PHOTO PRINTER £119.99, HP

YOUNGSTERS can use this portable printer with Bluetooth connectivity to quickly print favourite social media photos.

Jenk says: "This has a really cool personality option, allowing you to add emojis, borders and more to your snaps."

9 BRICK YOURSELF KEYRING £19.99, Firebox

CREATE a personalised mini version of your teenager attached to a keyring. Just upload a photo, tell Firebox a bit about them and then wait for a tiny plastic (much less moody) version of them to arrive.

Jenk says: "You can create your very own mini-me - they're great stocking fillers." Order before December 6 if you want it to arrive in time for Christmas.

10 SNAP INC SPECTACLES £129.95, John Lewis

THESE sunglasses are fitted with a tiny camera, which lets you capture the moments you see, hands-free. You can download videos to your phone's camera roll.

Jenk says: "Essential for any social media obsessive. They have loads of quirky functions that allow you to experience Snapchat videos in a new interactive way."



they don't knock themselves



Explain it again
please doctor

professionalism, level of care and reassurances from the hospital had cancelled out any worries. We put him in his little hospital gown and I pondered what level of skill and confidence it takes to operate on a tiny 7lb baby. Two hours later and he was fine, everything had gone to plan, the hernia was fixed and the doctors were very happy.

One night in our little room complete with TV and sofa bed then

home. Obviously, given the fact my son had just had a serious operation, it'd be churlish to complain about the sofa bed being too short, the room too warm and the TV signal on ITV being intermittent, so I'll just mention them. I was rudely awoken after Thomas knocked his heart monitor cable off his foot, triggering the baby danger alarm.

Unfortunately, the nurse rushed straight in without knocking, glimpsing me clad only in briefs, hurriedly trying to reattach the cable.

Luckily, I was able to preserve my dignity with a sheet, but even in an emergency situation, it's always safer to knock... for everybody.



ACCENTUATE

Talk in the accent your card gives you, and your team has to guess where you're from.

£16, John Lewis/Argos



THE GAME OF THINGS

For each topic, everyone writes down their own (hilarious) response, then you read them all out.

£32.99, Amazon



WOOFY WHOOPS

A small dog runs in a circle and you have to pat him correctly or he'll wee on you.

£19.99, Smyths

KIDS' PUZZLES!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between the pictures below?



WORDSEARCH

Can you find all these
Blackadder characters
in the grid?

H	L	K	C	I	R	D	L	A	B
N	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	I	V
M	U	G	O	P	N	G	N	U	N
E	Y	R	A	M	E	S	R	U	N
L	Q	A	S	O	P	W	F	O	H
C	B	P	R	I	I	E	T	G	B
H	O	G	U	A	E	X	R	O	D
E	E	X	J	E	J	C	B	C	U
T	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	Q	Y
T	K	H	P	D	N	U	M	D	E

BALDRICK

BOB

DARLING

EDMUND

GEORGE

MELCHETT

NURSE

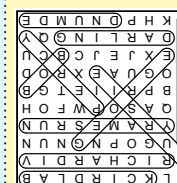
MARY

NURSIE

PERCY

RICHARD IV

Solutions



STYLE & BEAUTY

Down with the kids

EMMA JOHNSON SHOWS YOU HOW TO KIT OUT YOUR LITTLE ONES IN STYLE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

CLOSET CONFIDENTIAL

SINGING STAR **ELAINE PAIGE** REVEALS HER FASHION HITS AND MISSES

What are you wearing today?

An Armani navy blue leather appliqué jacket, Armani cashmere pink and white sleeveless sweater, with narrow navy leg trousers and black ankle boots.

Who's your style icon?

I adore Alexander McQueen. His skill to design for any medium was outstanding. His ability to create the beautiful and the new.

What item of clothing do you spend the most on?

Shoes, but having small feet's not easy. I tend to go on shoe shopping sprees when I tour in the Far East. They tend to do smaller sizes there and have some unique designs.

What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe?

A couture Lindka Cierach black velvet hand beaded full-length coat.

What has been your biggest fashion disaster?

Handmade grey snakeskin three-and-a-half inch high-heeled shoes - total disaster!

Who is your favourite designer?

I love designers who create clean lines such as Armani, Donna Karan, Jacques Azagury, Valentino, etc.

Which is your favourite high street store?

I love Joseph and also Paule Ka - the French ready-to-wear brand created by Serge Cajfinger.

What is your top fashion tip?

Always always keep it simple, don't try too hard. Less is more as they say!

■ Elaine Paige Presents Showstoppers From The Musicals triple CD is out now. See elainepaige.com for details.



BY MARION McMULLEN



BOY: Shirt £20, waistcoat £22, trousers £20, shoes £22; Girl: Top £22, shorts £18, tights £6, shoes £22, All RI Kids Studio at River Island



Skater unicorn dress, from £18, M&Co, mandco.com



Girls' asymmetric dresses from £22, M&Co, mandco.com



Printed dress from £25, gold boots £26, dog coat from £8, all Next, next.co.uk

LEFT: shirt and bow tie £9.99, blazer £24.99, trousers £14.99, shoes £17.99; RIGHT: hooded top £7.99, trousers £14.99, trainers £17.99, all H&M, hm.com



L-R: Star dress £9-£10, shoes £12; Star jumper £10-£14, pink skirt £14, shoes £10-£11; Slogan top £4-£6, black jeans £9-£11, boots £17-£18; Check shirt £10-£11, jeans (part of set) £10-£11, all from George at Asda

*Prices correct at time of going to print. All offers available while stocks last

Reindeer jumper £22, red tutu £16, silver boots £22, all from Next, next.co.uk



EMMA JOHNSON



MEGHAN MANIA... BRING IT ON

SO, ON Monday, the news anyone with more than a passing interest in the Royal family had been expecting for days broke – Prince Harry is to marry his American girlfriend Meghan Markle.

In the days since, Meghan-mania has taken hold of the country.

And to be quite honest given the other issues swirling right now, economic breakdown, potential war between north Korea and America, Brexit and how come the X Factor is still on TV?, I welcome the distraction.

As an avid Suits fan, I am pretty familiar with Ms Markle with her gorgeous locks (I can sense my Duchess of Cambridge hair obsession transferring across nicely), slim legs and perfect complexion.

However, I now know more about the 36-year-old actress, who has risen to fame as pencil skirt-wearing paralegal Rachel Zane in the law firm-based 'dramedy', than I do some of my oldest friends.

I am certainly fully versed in which fashion labels she favours – which is handy given this is a fashion column ya know.

The 'Kate effect' on retail is well documented (the Issa dress she wore for her engagement announcement even has its own Wikipedia page) but this week we saw the 'Meghan effect' in action.

For Monday's big reveal, Meghan chose a £489 fitted green dress by little-known Italian label P.A.R.O.S.H. It was not available to buy at the time but the brand quickly restocked and cannily renamed the number, The Meghan.

Her coat meanwhile, was from Canadian brand Line The Label. Such was demand for the £559.56 piece that its website

crashed within the hour.

Her £850 earrings were also by a Canadian company, Maisson Birks, then again the Commonwealth country is something of an adopted homeland for the Californian because it is where Suits is filmed.

Last time I looked, the gold and opal studs were still on sale at Goldsmiths if you fancy splashing out.

And, let's talk for a moment about those shoes. They may have been nude but that is where any comparisons between Meghan's £550 Aquazzura heels and Kate's beloved LK Bennett courts end.

At the time of writing Meghan was due to get her first taste of life as a working royal as she and

Harry undertake a walkabout in Nottingham.

Given this week's Arctic blast, her seven years in Toronto should pay off when it comes to staying warm in the British winter and whatever she opts for, no doubt by the time you read this, that too will have been snapped up.

I wouldn't be surprised if this weekend sees sales of radishes rocketing, after it was revealed Meghan's signature roast chicken dish – the one the couple were making when Harry went down on bended knee – contains one and a half pounds of the things.

As for the wedding dress, speculation as to who will get the gig is already frenzied. Rumour has it she has been to British designer Erdem for a fitting – although that could be for any dress not necessarily a bridal gown.

Other names in the running include Antonio Berardi, Ellie Saab and even Victoria Beckham.

What a scoop that would be for the former Spice Girl. I'll tell you what she wants, what she really, really wants...



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

COVER IMAGE – Boy: cap £10, jacket £35, T-shirt £10, jeans £20; Girl: Choker £6, sequin dress £35, cross body bag £16, all River Island Kids, riverisland.com

FILM REVIEWS

With Darryl Webber



Takuya Kimura as Manji and Hana Sugisaki as Rin Asano in *Blade Of The Immortal*

REVENGE IS SWEET

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL (18) ★★★★★

This is cult Japanese director Takashi Miike's 100th film and there's no sign of him mellowing with age. *Blade Of The Immortal* is a riotous, outrageously violent revenge movie in which Miike stacks up a body count many times higher than his film tally.

His prolific output, which began with TV and straight-to-video work in the 1980s and 1990s, spans various genres but the enduring themes of violence and body horror are never far away and they're very much dead centre in *Blade Of The Immortal*.

After a furious battle against

a horde of warriors to avenge his sister's death, skilled samurai Manji (Takuya Kimura) is nursed by a mysterious goddess called Yaobikuni (Yoko Yamamoto) who puts blood worms into his body which give him miraculous healing powers.

Now an immortal, he can overcome any injury and as a result is pretty much unbearable in battle.

He teams up with Rin (Hana Sugisaki) to help her get revenge on a group of ruthless swordsmen, led by the fearsome Anotsu (Sota Fukushi), who killed her parents.

A series of brutal, bloody and often bizarre fights ensue as Manji and Rin close in on Anotsu and his followers in a

battle royale of a finale.

This sort of thing isn't everyone's cup of tea, but if you like ludicrously entertaining samurai movies steeped in over-the-top, comic-book violence then you'll love it. Indeed, Mike's film is based on an enormously popular Manga comic book that ran from 1993 to 2012, and it has the extreme characters and heavily stylised sequences you'd expect from that art form.

The film version is certainly not restricted by considerations of realism or concessions to credibility and it's very different to elegant martial arts movies from the Chinese wuxia tradition like *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, *Hero* and *House Of The Flying*

Daggers which were popular with Western audiences in the early 2000s.

This is rougher, readier fare, a bone-crunching samurai film with plenty of black humour running through it.

Which isn't to say it isn't great to look at. Some of the fight scenes are breathtaking works of action and choreography – the opening black and white sequence alone is a thing of brutal beauty while the final showdown involves 300 people and took two weeks to film.

But Miike doesn't linger too long on stunning landscapes or striking backdrops... there's the bloody business of revenge to be getting on with after all. And he gets on with it very well.

ALSO OUT THIS WEEK

Charming tale of innocence lost



Kyle Mooney stars as James in *Brigsby Bear*

BRIGSBY BEAR (15) ★★★★★

WHAT a strange, sweet film *Brigsby Bear* is, a debut feature from Saturday Night Live director Dave McCary that tackles tricky subject matter in an unusual and original way.

Given the film's premise, which is pretty dark, this could have been an intense psychological drama but what McCary gives us instead is a lo-fi charmer of a movie with an unashamedly feelgood finale.

In the opening scenes, we see what seems to be a post-apocalyptic family scene, seemingly a son and parents in some sort of bunker that's their refuge from a poisoned world (they wear gas masks when they go outside their remote home).

James (Kyle Mooney), the son, is obsessed with a cheesy sci-fi show called *Brigsby Bear* which follows the adventures of the titular ursine as he battles intergalactic evil. James's world is turned upside down when police raid the home and it's revealed that Ted and April Mitchum (Mark Hamill and Jane Adams) aren't his parents but abducted him when he was little. The post-apocalyptic scenario was contrived to keep him in the bunker and the *Brigsby Bear* show was a homemade effort by Ted to keep him entertained.

Returned to his real family after police interrogation, James (who's in his twenties at least, but emotionally much younger) understandably struggles to adapt and won't let go of the *Brigsby Bear* character to such an extent that he persuades the new friends he makes to carry on the intergalactic adventures in their own homemade show.

Brigsby Bear could have been a chilling examination of abduction and its effects along the lines of recent films like *Room* or even *13 Cloverfield Lane*, but instead it focuses on James and his way of coping with the freedom that he never knew he was missing out on in the first place.

He's a man-child, an innocent who was caught up in an 80s timewarp in the bunker and now he's adjust not just to freedom but modern life and socialising with other people. This is all really nicely observed, from his comical attempts to mix with others to winning them over and getting them on board to film more *Brigsby Bear* footage.

This sweet-natured film reminded me of *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Be Kind Rewind* and has the kind of lo-fi charm that and retro flavour that will make it a cult favourite in years to come.

Classic wartime fantasy back on the big screen



David Niven stars as Peter Carter

Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's classic wartime fantasy *A Matter Of Life And Death* returns to the big screen from this Friday, December 8, with a lush 4K restoration.

An enduring favourite that regularly makes 'best of British' film lists, it

follows RAF pilot Peter Carter (David Niven) who bails out of his plane in the last days of World War Two after confessing his innermost secrets to radio operator June (Kim Hunter). Instead of finding himself in enemy territory, Carter has landed in a

limbo between this world and the next and faces a heavenly trial to determine his fate.

Blending themes of war, love and time travel in a beautiful and sometimes surreal storyline, this is a wonderful film worth seeing on the big screen.

LIVE MUSIC

BEST GIGS THIS WEEK



■ **The Electric Jam, Bassment, Chelmsford, Friday, December 8**
Paolo Morena's final jam of the year promises to be a real Christmas party with an eclectic mix of guest appearing as well as the live-looping guru. Koyo (above) are a Leeds band who mix up psychedelic and prog influences in their own distinct sound while soul diva Michelle Ward will be belting out a mix of original tunes and classic covers.



■ **TWDR night, Bassment, Chelmsford, Saturday, December 9**
The final Wet Dream Records night of the year is another tip-top night of garage and psych sounds with East London's Bad Nerves (above) heading the bill and More Kicks, Suspects and Graves completing an impressive line-up.

DOWN THE PUB



Broadway Clash (above) have branded their gig this Saturday as a "Clashmas Party" so it shouldn't take too much working out what to expect!

Gigs for December 8-10

■ **The Bull, Colchester:** Friday – The Beagles; Saturday – Hedgehog
■ **Cricketers, Southend:** Friday – Anthem; Saturday – Broadway Clash
■ **Horse & Groom, Braintree:** Saturday – Storm
■ **Railway Hotel, Clifftown Road, Southend:** Friday – The Featherz and Petty Phase (both female fronted bands "with attitude"); Saturday (4.30pm) – Snafu (featuring former Procol Harum Bobby Harrison on vocals); 9pm – Swindle; Sunday (7.30pm) – Kingsnakes and a No Good Woman
■ **Golden Fleece, Chelmsford:** Friday – Grounds For Divorce; Saturday – Wishbone
■ **Boars Head, Braintree:** Friday – Scam 69 (punk/new wave covers); Saturday – Broken Bones

FESTIVE chap hop



FANCY some festive fun chap hop style? Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer, the king of tweed-infused tunes, brings his finely-waxed moustache and ukulele to Chelmsford for a special Christmas show at the Bassment on December 22.

Expect catchy ditties and witty lyrics from this fine upstanding gentleman while supports comes from banjo-strumming covers band Creme de Chevre and The Calma Llamas, who promise a fun bucket of cheeky tunes.

More details and bookings on the Bassment's Facebook event page

Who better for a tribute act?

Top tribute act Who's Next come to Chelmsford City FC on Saturday, December 9 with a show that captures one of Britain's best rock bands at the height of their powers.

Playing a 'greatest hits' set of The Who songs you can expect classic tunes like My Generation, Pinball Wizard, Baba O'Riley and Won't Get Fooled Again.

Opening up the evening are the SharpeeZ, a great live act.

Doors open 7.30pm and the show starts at 8.15pm. Tickets are £13 in advance from the football club or £15 on the door.



FAMILY MATTERS

CHILDREN'S
BOOK OF THE WEEKTHE MAGIC MISFITS
by Neil Patrick Harris

Egmont, hardback £12.99, ebook £3.20

★★★★★

YEP, it's by Barney! For non-How I Met Your Mother fans, this is actor and comedian Neil Patrick Harris' debut fiction for kids, and you can certainly hear him in the prose.

The Magic Misfits follows Carter, whose vanished parents have been replaced by his intimidating, self-serving Uncle Sly, around whom Carter tip-toes, a lot. Uncle Sly has involved Carter in his pickpocketing racket, swindling people out of money by distracting them with magic tricks.

Sick of bamboozling people for profit, however excellent his illusions, Carter finally finds the courage to scarper, and luckily falls into the welcoming arms of a cohort of fellow magicians.

It's got pace and wit as you'd expect from Harris (check out the amusing mathematical table of contents for a start), but at times it lacks pizzazz, falling into routine ruminations on friendship and finding your people.

However, it's got spark, and budding magicians will certainly pick up a few trips.

PRODUCT
OF THE WEEK

AS far as we're concerned, it's not officially the festive period until Gap's striped collection explodes in stores. You can match

your whole family in the colourful range of cosy knits and bobble hats covered in lovely lines.

L to R: Hat £12.95; jumper £18.95; jacket £29.95; dress £26.99; jacket £29.95, leggings £19.95, in stores and at gap.co.uk



Don't know what gift to get your teenager? Let this cool kid help

IT'S never easy to buy gifts for teens and tweens, as their must-have items seem to change daily. But if you're looking for inspiration on what to buy a relative or friend in that age group this Christmas, Jenk Oz, can help.

Jenk is the 12-year-old CEO of iCoolKid, the UK's biggest website for eight to 15 year olds, and he's put together his top 10 picks on the coolest presents to buy for teens and tweens like him. Follow his advice to ensure happy teenage faces when your gift is unwrapped. Here is the iCoolKid top 10 cool Christmas gifts guide:

1 X DRONE PRO 720P QUADCOPTER
£49.99, Maplin

THIS drone, with a removable HD camera, has a transmission range of up to 80m and seven minutes of flight time. Use it both indoors and outdoors.

Jenk says: "Drones are still very much on the cool list for 2017, and luckily, prices have become much more reasonable. This Quadcopter is one of my very top picks."



LISA SALMON asks 12-year-old website CEO and tech guru Jenk Oz for his personal top 10 gifts for teens and tweens as the Christmas period nears

2 JARRE AEROBULL NANO PORTABLE
BLUETOOTH WIRELESS SPEAKER
£79, Currys PC World

NOT only does this Bluetooth speaker have a battery life of up to eight hours, it also looks like a dog wearing shades and comes in red, black or white.

Jenk says: "This funky, mini-speaker promises to deliver sound and quality despite being pocket-size. Complete with dogs in retro sunglasses - what's not to love?"

3 LK+ LASER KEYBOARD & POWER
BANK, £69, Prezybox

SIMPLY place the LK+ Laser Keyboard on a flat surface and watch the QWERTY keyboard magically appear. Connect the device through either a USB or Bluetooth.

Jenk says: "I think this is a great gift for

anyone who loves to type on the go, but finds their phone keyboard super fiddly."

4 PICO PROJECTOR, £39.99, Amazon

THIS LED mini-projector can display pictures, movies, videos and games on a 1.5m screen.

Jenk says: "What could be cooler than your own cinema in your bedroom?"

5 FAIRGROUND CANDY GRABBER,
£34.99, Very

INSERT a fake or real coin, the music plays and you have to grab as many sweets as you can with the grabber before the music stops.

Jenk says: "This is a great way of adding a challenge into Christmas sweet eating," says Jenk, "and it will make favourite sweets last longer."



You can't knock the NHS... and it seems

RICHARD IRVINE

DOUBLE
TROUBLE
FOR A
FIRST-TIME
DAD OF TWINS



THE mysterious case of the missing testicle was nearing a conclusion.

Little Thomas was booked in for an operation to fix his hernia. It was a double inguinal hernia, which affects 30% of premature babies, and of those cases roughly 15% are a double hernia.

There's always something comforting about a common condition. Give me an illness half of the population has any day, rather than a doctor scratching their head, and saying 'this is the first time I've ever seen this, I'll get the professor'.

Technically, it's hard to

describe an inguinal hernia but imagine the testicle as a plum on a tree branch, which is actually a blood vessel, and the intestine as a large snake. The snake (intestine) will weigh the branch (blood vessel) down moving the plum (testicle).

The consultant said there was more to it than that and he wasn't sure they even have snakes in countries with plum trees. However, he was very confident the operation would be a success, although decided to outline some terrifying things, which can go wrong, in a minuscule minority of cases.

He also explained Thomas would spend the night in hospital and asked which one of us would be staying with him.

We knew he'd be staying but assumed we'd leave hospital late at night and come back the next morning. And this might make me a bad person but I was quite looking forward to a night's sleep with just one baby crying.

After a brief discussion in which Victoria decided I'd be the one sleeping on a sofa in a hospital room full of bleeping machines, it was time.

Strangely, I wasn't anxious, concerned maybe but the





iCoolKid
CEO Jenk Oz

6 CUSTOM SKATEBOARD
priced from £62.34, Skatehut
A VARIETY of cool, ready-built custom skateboards which Skatehut says are "Built and ready to Shred." Whatever that means...

7 HISY BLUETOOTH CAMERA REMOTE, £16.95, Apple
PUT your iPhone down, step as far as 27.4m away from it, and snap yourself with this remote 'selfie button', which comes with a stand and a headphone jack charm.
Jenk says: "All you have to do is hook the button up to your iPhone via Bluetooth, step away and start snapping."

8 SPROCKET PHOTO PRINTER £119.99, HP
YOUNGSTERS can use this portable printer with Bluetooth connectivity to quickly print favourite social media photos.
Jenk says: "This has a really cool personality option, allowing you to add emojis, borders and more to your snaps."

9 BRICK YOURSELF KEYRING £19.99, Firebox
CREATE a personalised mini version of your teenager attached to a keyring. Just upload a photo, tell Firebox a bit about them and then wait for a tiny plastic (much less moody) version of them to arrive.
Jenk says: "You can create your very own mini-me - they're great stocking fillers." Order before December 6 if you want it to arrive in time for Christmas.

10 SNAP INC SPECTACLES £129.95, John Lewis
THESE sunglasses are fitted with a tiny camera, which lets you capture the moments you see, hands-free. You can download videos to your phone's camera roll.
Jenk says: "Essential for any social media obsessive. They have loads of quirky functions that allow you to experience Snapchat videos in a new interactive way."



they don't knock themselves



Explain it again please doctor

professionalism, level of care and reassurances from the hospital had cancelled out any worries. We put him in his little hospital gown and I pondered what level of skill and confidence it takes to operate on a tiny 7lb baby. Two hours later and he was fine, everything had gone to plan, the hernia was fixed and the doctors were very happy.

One night in our little room complete with TV and sofa bed then

home. Obviously, given the fact my son had just had a serious operation, it'd be churlish to complain about the sofa bed being too short, the room too warm and the TV signal on ITV being intermittent, so I'll just mention them.

I was rudely awoken after Thomas knocked his heart monitor cable off his foot, triggering the baby danger alarm.

Unfortunately, the nurse rushed straight in without knocking, glimpsing me clad only in briefs, hurriedly trying to reattach the cable. Luckily, I was able to preserve my dignity with a sheet, but even in an emergency situation, it's always safer to knock... for everybody.



ACCENTUATE
Talk in the accent your card gives you, and your team has to guess where you're from.
£16, John Lewis/Argos



THE GAME OF THINGS
For each topic, everyone writes down their own (hilarious) response, then you read them all out.
£32.99, Amazon



WOOFY WHOOPS
A small dog runs in a circle and you have to pat him correctly or he'll wee on you.
£19.99, Smyths

KIDS' PUZZLES!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between the pictures below?



WORDSEARCH

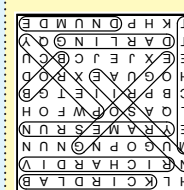
Can you find all these Blackadder characters in the grid?

H	L	K	C	I	R	D	L	A	B
N	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	I	V
M	U	G	O	P	N	G	N	U	N
E	Y	R	A	M	E	S	R	U	N
L	Q	A	S	O	P	W	F	O	H
C	B	P	R	I	I	E	T	G	B
H	O	G	U	A	E	X	R	O	D
E	E	X	J	E	J	C	B	C	U
T	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	Q	Y
T	K	H	P	D	N	U	M	D	E

BALDRICK
BOB
DARLING
EDMUND
GEORGE
MELCHETT

NURSE
MARY
NURSIE
PERCY
RICHARD IV

Solutions



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YEARS of SERVICE

Traditional Values, Dedication & Care

This year Daniel Robinson & Sons are celebrating 125 years' service to the community. They have been conducting funerals in and around Harlow since the New Town was built 70 years ago.



Daniel Robinson & Sons funeral fleet 2017 - the very latest Mercedes fleet, air conditioned and purpose built for their clients

Investing in the future...

Daniel Robinson & Sons continue to move forward improving their facilities, developing and training staff and investing in a brand new fleet of Mercedes vehicles, including hearses, E Class long wheelbase limousines and S Class limousines. Managing Director Gary Neill said 'we constantly invest in our vehicles and facilities. I'm delighted that the new fleet offers the highest specification of vehicles for the families using our services'.

Protect against rising costs...

Daniel Robinson & Sons continue to encourage families to protect against the rising costs of funerals. While the average cost of a funeral in 2004 was £1,920, today in the UK is £4,078, that's an increase of 110% (*Sunlife cost of dying report 2017*). The main reason for this is the rise in third party costs, which the funeral director has no control over. Taking out a Funeral Plan is a sensible and thoughtful way to protect yourself and your family against these increases. As independent family funeral directors, Daniel Robinson & Sons use Golden Charter Funeral Plans. The money paid is safely held in the Golden Charter Trust until the time of need. By making an Independent Way Plan-bespoke to your exact request, the cost can be managed and the local knowledge of their staff will ensure that your wishes are fully understood and adhered to. Beware of cold callers and funeral plan sales-men. Always buy a plan from a funeral director as they are the professionals and will provide the service when the plan is needed.

For more information, help and guidance, please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons.

For the yesterdays, today & the tomorrows



The team at Harlow



The changing look of funerals...

Daniel Robinson & Sons have noticed a growing trend where families have requested a specialist vehicle be used, usually something that was a keen interest of the person who has passed away. There are a large number of vehicles that they are able to source including horse-drawn carriages, with black or white horses and a choice of plume colours. Vintage lorries, camper vans and motorcycles, even vintage fire engines.



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SOUND OUT

WANT MORE ORBISON? YOU GOT IT!

The sons of music legend Roy Orbison talk to **MARION McMULLEN** about music, memories and next year's hologram tour

What is your earliest memory of your father singing?

ROY Jr (aged 47): The first thing that jumps out would be in London. We were probably at the Mayfair Hotel or one of the two or three big hotels we stayed in.

I would've been two or three years old and I remember they wouldn't let me go to the show.

I was just lying on the bed and I remember I could feel the floor shaking and the people clapping and everything.

I just wanted to go down there so badly and I fell asleep to Roy Orbison music. It's nice to fall asleep to. It was so soothing.

ALEX (aged 42): I remember getting pulled up to do a bow - being about three - and just seeing all of those people looking back.

That was in the UK as well and it was amazing how hard everyone clapped. It was stunning.

WESLEY (aged 52): He came to pick me up on his motorcycle, we rode to the top of the hill and he started singing Yellow Submarine and I thought it odd.

I said: "Are you just making that up on the spot?" and he said "No, it's a song by a really terrific famous band called The Beatles."

Was music always around growing up?

ROY Jr: I grew up on the back of a tour bus. I slept more nights than not in the studio, so I remember living in the music studios, and there was always a guitar in the room.

Roy always left a guitar nearby and I still sleep with a guitar nearby. I have a guitar in every room of my house right now so I don't have to go searching.

ALEX: Life revolved around the turntable and music and people coming by to write music or play music or wanting to do music



Roy's sons, from left, Alex, Wesley and Roy Jr



John Lennon and Ringo Starr at the birthday party of Roy Orbison in 1964. They are pictured with his son Roy Jr

business, and so I think it was all encompassing.

WESLEY: For me it was a little more of a solitary experience.

I had a record player and some of my dad's records hanging around and a Johnny Cash record and a Jerry Lee Lewis record and Merle Haggard, who was one of my grandfather's favourites.

He played that quite a bit.

When did you start playing music yourselves?

ROY Jr: Well, I have a son, Roy III, and he's one year old, and we have him on this new Royal Philharmonic Orchestra album, *A Love So Beautiful*.

At 10 months old, he plays on the song Oh, Pretty Woman so we have three generations of Roy Orbisons on this album.

Our dad was a passive aggressive dad.

He didn't push it on us, he just made it easy to choose music.

He gave me a guitar for my fifth birthday so I could say I started at five, but I remember sneaking in and playing with his guitar earlier than that.

ALEX: I think I was three, right? I remember my hands were too small to get on the guitar.

First they wanted me to play the violin! I had to have a sponge to go on the chin holder because it was too far away because I was so small.

I was legitimately the worst violin player probably ever.

It made me much more comfortable when I got to drums a little while later.

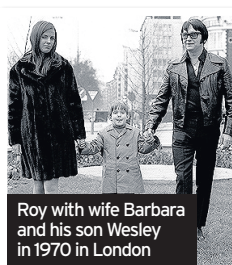
WESLEY: I always sang for as long



Roy Orbison pictured backstage at the London Palladium in 1965, and above, with his wife Barbara and baby son Roy Jr. Below, is new album *A Love So Beautiful* which features Roy's classic tracks with music from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

as I could remember, but dad said if I wanted to get into writing songs and all that I should learn an instrument and be able to accompany myself. I think it was probably close to my 18th birthday when I got a guitar and then it started pretty full on.

What was it like hearing songs like Only The Lonely, Crying and In Dreams played by the orchestra for the first time on the album?



Roy with wife Barbara and his son Wesley in 1970 in London

ALEX: I literally cried. It's strange but I don't know what the tears are, because they're not sad tears.

It's just so beautiful that it moved me to tears the first time.

When we were sat around, I remember seeing these guys get a little misty, and I thought "Good, it's not just me."

How will the hologram tour work next year?

ALEX: By sheer entertainment magic. We can't get too deeply into how it'll work, but we can say that it's gonna work well.

The tour will be our father walking out on stage as a hologram surrounded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra playing the arrangements that are on the record with our dad's vocals.

To have the Roy Orbison concert experience again will be incredible for people, and for me personally.

If it passes muster with me then I'm confident it's gonna pass muster with other people, even the people who have seen many, many, many shows.

ROY Jr: I was sold when they first described it and said "Here's the way it's gonna go, your dad's gonna walk to the centre..." He's gonna walk?! What else is he gonna do? I was blown away just from that.

That's like Darth Vader walking into the room! He's gonna walk into the centre of the stage? I'm gonna have goosebumps already.

What is the best piece of advice your father ever gave you?

ALEX: I was a famous shortcutter, like I would try to stack all the plates on the table so it would only take one run to the dishwasher, and he must've sympathised with that and he said, "When you do something, do it 100%, even 110%."

"Give it your all, so you don't have to come back and mess with it later, because those shortcuts end up meaning more time later."

I didn't figure that out until I was 35 years old, and now those words echo in my head.

WESLEY: Choose your friends wisely.

ROY Jr: He had so many bits of advice. He was very, very smart, but one thing that I think about more and more as I get older was that he said, "Son, the surest way to poverty is to become a poet or a jazz musician."

All these years later, I'm kind of a poet and a jazz musician.

■ **A Love So Beautiful** With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is out now and the single *Love Hurts* will be released on December 22. The orchestra will also be performing with a holographic Roy Orbison next year as part of the Roy Orbison *In Dreams* tour. Go to royorbison.com for details.



U2: SONGS OF EXPERIENCE

★★★★★

THANK you Santa. A new album from U2 is just what I wanted for Christmas - writes **Marion McMullen**

And is has definitely been worth the wait - offering everything from the rousing American Soul to the poignant (There Is A Light) - that is right up there with the band's classic songs like One and Love Is Blindness.

There is everything from pure pop to rock on offer, but the simplicity of some of the tracks can be deceptive. As Bono sings on The Showman (Little More Better): "It is what it is, but it's not what it seems."

What is certain is that this is the perfect calling card to the band's tour dates next year. Hearing these songs performed live is going to be special.

MIGUEL - WAR & LEISURE

★★★★★

FOLLOWING the darkly intense 2015 R&B masterpiece *Wildheart*, Miguel makes his much longed for return with his fourth studio album, bringing with him his signature R&B/rock infusion style, tinged with psychedelia, dreamy interludes and soft vocals.

There are serious party vibes in *War & Leisure*, but fewer lyrics about love and death and, overall, the album seems to be more leisure than war.

Miguel's more positive stance on life is clear, but the most notable change is how he's taken his vocals to another level. He hits the challenging notes soulfully, effortlessly. Hints of bird song and harps and hazy echoes give the album a heavenly feel - it's a strong progression and displays his maturity as an artist.

VAN MORRISON - VERSATILE

★★★★★

WITH Versatile, Van Morrison brings out his third album of the year with a nostalgic melange of swing classics and freshly-penned pastiches.

The band is vibrant and fresh, and Van's voice - though a little reaching at times - remains as charming as ever.

It is during such jazz standards as Gershwin's *A Foggy Day* and *Bye Bye Blackbird* that Morrison shows the strengths and limitations of a triple-album year. Both will be well-loved by the collectors and the long-time fans, but will draw no new listeners with their tried and tested formulae.

Though his covers are somewhat unimaginative (another recording of *Unchained Melody*?) he proves his already stunning compositional credentials by restoring an unfettered quality that harks back to his prime.

SPOTLIGHT

We think the break has been good for the show and it will come back really fresh

It's time to get your skates on for the return of *Dancing On Ice*. Olympic gold stars Torvill and Dean tell **MARION MCMULLEN** why they are taking it ice and easy this time around

Does it seem like nearly four years since you last did *Dancing On Ice*?

CHRISTOPHER DEAN: The break has really helped. We got to a point where we felt we couldn't do anything more with the show. It felt it had reached its potential and we thought we had done everything possible. It was also 30 years since our Olympic win as well and it just seemed a poignant moment to step back. I think the hiatus has been good for the show and it will come back really fresh. It left on a really good note, high up there, and it will come back bigger and stronger.

What did you get up to during your *Dancing On Ice* break?

JAYNE TORVILL: Chris and I did panto ... on rollerblades. That was quite challenging. We also had to learn lots of lines, but we did enjoy it. It was good fun, but it was hard work doing two shows every day. CHRISTOPHER: I do choreography for professional skaters as well. I've got quite a few teams going to the Winter Olympics in February.

What is it like bringing the show back again?

CHRISTOPHER: ITV got in touch with us about a year ago and we started talks about how we could bring it back in 2018. JAYNE: (Laughs) We didn't have to think about it. We are absolutely thrilled that *Dancing On Ice* is coming back and there is a lot of excitement and energy about it with celebrities like Great British Bake Off's Candice Brown, Love Island winner Kem Cetinay and Coronation Street's Brooke Vincent and Antony Cotton announced. We haven't seen any of the contestants - we want to be impartial and wait until the first show. I am interested to see Candice. She comes from a totally different area, but she's probably quite competitive. CHRISTOPHER: I'm a big Corrie fan, so I can't wait to see how Antony and Brooke get on.

What is different this time around?

JAYNE: We are the judges this time.

We were on the creative side last time doing choreography and performing. It was very intense work week-in-week-out, but now we will only be required on a Sunday to judge the routines.

CHRISTOPHER: The heart of the show will still be the same. Celebrities dancing on ice with the potential to get better with more and more difficult routines. There will also be some twists and turns along the way.

What kind of judges will you be?

CHRISTOPHER: Very compassionate. I think the whole point is to be honest. If they are doing a great job and look really strong and enthusiastic that is great but if they seem like they need help we can point them in the right direction and say what they need to work on to learn to be confident. But, at the end of the day, most of all we will be honest. We also have Diversity's Ashley Banjo as a judge and I think he will bring a contemporary feel and Jason Gardiner is back. (Laughs) Jason will be Jason.

Do celebrities realise how tough the competition can be?

JAYNE: I don't think they realise how many hours they have to put in. They also have new skates, so that's going to be painful, and they are going to have blisters, but they still have to put in the hours in to do the basics. CHRISTOPHER: There is no magic bullet. It's two hours a day, six days a week. If they want to do more that's only going to be better.

Which celebrities have stood out for you over the years?

JAYNE: Each series there



Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, above, and in their prime at the 1994 Winter Olympics, below



Ray Quinn on the ice



are a few stand out people.

CHRISTOPHER: Ray Quinn was a stand out one and (laughs) I suppose Todd Carty as well but for the wrong reasons.

You will also be touring the UK next March and April with 27 arena dates of *Dancing On Ice Live*. What is it like doing the live shows?

JAYNE: Audiences love hearing the swish of the skates on the ice and it's all so much faster than it appears on TV. The first half of the show will be the competition and Chris and I will be both hosting and judging and audiences will get to text their votes

as well. It could be a different champion every night.

Do you think *Dancing On Ice* has led to more people skating?

JAYNE: I think following the 2006 series you did see people going into ice rinks a lot more and that's when pop-up ice rinks started in places like Somerset House, the Natural History Museum and all around the country, and that has continued. It's great.

■ The *Dancing On Ice Live* Tour starts on March 23 and tickets are now on sale. Go to dancingonice.com for details.



■ NEW *Holby City* actor Paul McGann says he is still waiting for his Bard moment to come along.

The 58-year-old says: "I have never done Shakespeare professionally and a British actor who has never done Shakespeare sounds mad. I am getting a bit long in the tooth so a few of the great roles have already passed me by. Somebody give me a Shakespeare job and put me out of my misery."

■ TICKETS

are going fast for Aidan Turner's West End debut next year.

The Poldark star will play a cat-loving terrorist called Mad Padraic in Martin McDonagh's black comedy *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. The production previews at the Noel Coward Theatre in London on June 23. Go to noelcowardtheatre.co.uk for ticket details.



■ RAP-JAZZ comedy duo Harry & Chris are currently touring the country with their hit family friendly show following a successful London run. The pair, above, are formed from World Slam Poetry Champion Harry Baker and award-winning jazz musician Chris Read and their show tackles topics including the delights of time travel, robot wars and the survival of the panda bear. Go to harryandchris.com for upcoming tour dates.

HOTSEAT

Ross Noble is out of his natural habitat for his new TV motorcycle series, *Ross Noble: Off Road*, taking on the Scottish Six Days Trial. The stand-up comic tells **GEMMA DUNN** performing in front of massive audiences is easy, but...

You're a self-confessed bike fan, but the Scottish Six Days Trial is famously tough. How did you find yourself involved?

IT happened because I was racing dirt bikes and I'd done Enduro Extreme, where you're racing bikes, but over massive obstacles.

All the guys that were really good at those races were trials riders, so I became a bit obsessed with trying to get as good as I could. Then I started doing local competitions, so the natural thing – and the way that I always do everything – was instead of going 'Oh yeah this is fun, I'll go, 'Right, what's the hardest thing, the most extreme version of this that we can possibly do?' So yeah I just went, 'Stuff it, let's give it a go.'

How did it compare to what you thought it would be?

I KNEW it would be hard, but I thought it would be much more light-hearted. When I've done extreme races in the past, there's been a real sense of fun about it, a real sense of people just having a go and having a laugh, but actually with Scotland, everybody up there was deadly serious.

You say in the first episode that you're in over your head. Was there ever a point when you felt like giving up?

WELL that's sort of what the series is about, really, because as it goes on, it doesn't get any easier.

Physically and mentally, it's that thing of, are you going to walk away from it? Are you going to go, 'This is too hard?' It's more about how my relationship with James, my mate that I was doing it with, started to get stretched.

It's also that thing of, we're making a documentary and the event is six days long – what happens if you don't make it to the end?

Do you need to be a fan of the sport to watch the show?

INITIALLY, we wanted to make a bike show but we decided it was much more of a comedy show. We had a lot more stuff where we were doing silly challenges and stuff, preparing for the trials, before we got up there.

What we found was it was such a compelling story of a bunch of mates and the relationship between two friends, that it actually became something else.

How did you find riding in front of the crowds? You're no stranger to an audience, having embarked on 150-date stand-up tours.

IT'S totally different and that's what we tried to show – the fact that the whole thing was really intense, especially with people watching.

I've been performing since I was a kid; I've put in my hours, so that doesn't even register. I know that the idea of public speaking strikes fear into some people's hearts, but I can go on stage in front of thousands of people and not even bat an eyelid.

It's just what I do. Whereas riding a motorbike over a load of boulders,

Riding in front of a crowd ramps up the pressure



Ross Noble just wants to have fun – whether it's off-road biking or playing Igor in the musical *Young Frankenstein*, below with Lesley Joseph as Frau Blucher



while people sit there with their phones, just ramps up the pressure.

You've been performing for nearly three decades...

IT'S amazing. I am loving it. I think it's one of those things where you just do it gig by gig, tour by tour, and it's only when you start looking back that you go, 'Oh blimey, that's quite a thing.'

At the moment, I'm having a bit of a break from stand-up, because I am doing *Young Frankenstein*, the musical.

I am doing eight shows a week singing and dancing and working with Mel Brooks. So from that point of view it's bizarre. I find myself going, 'Wow, I'm working with one of the greatest living film-comedy guys in the world.'

After that you're off to Australia on tour and then back to the UK – do you like to keep busy?

I JUST like having fun, with work as well. I just basically do stuff that I think is going to be a laugh and I had a right laugh making *Ross Noble: Off Road*, doing the event and then putting it together.

'And then, you know, obviously with my stand-up and then *Young Frankenstein* at the minute – it's perfect.

■ **Ross Noble: Off Road** starts on Dave on Thursday at 8pm.

■ **ROSS Noble's El Hablador 2018 Tour** is on sale now, for dates and tickets see rossnoble.co.uk

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Learn to love your wrinkles

Embracing the ageing process can be a positive experience - if you choose to see it that way.

Psychotherapist Thomas Moore talks to **LIZ CONNOR** about the richness that can come with getting older

DO YOU flinch when you blow out the candles on your birthday cake? Or surreptitiously keep the date hidden from your friends and colleagues? You may have a touch of 'gerascophobia' - and no, it's not a tropical disease - it's actually the fear of getting old.

Stereotypes tell us that ageing is not something to look forward to. It leaves us depressed, lonely, dependent, comically incapable of using smartphones, and prone to boring everyone around the dinner table with outdated stories. The cosmetics industry further instils dread, with constant reminders that ageing is something that should be secretly battled with expensive products and regimes.

"There are plenty of reasons to fear ageing," says Thomas Moore, who lived as a Catholic monk for 12 years before leaving to become a psychotherapist. "[There's the] fear of losing health and physical ability, but also the sense of mortality that is all part of the process."

Thomas has long studied the emotional effects of ageing, and now offers a fresh and uplifting vision on the fear of growing old in his new book, *Ageless Soul*. According to him, as we grow older, we may gain more imperfections, but we become more enriched and complex individuals.

COMPLAINING ABOUT AGE IS THE FIRST PITFALL

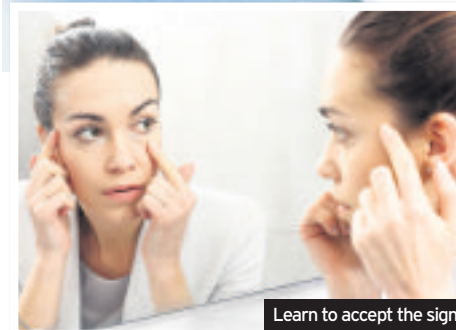
WE'VE all had those days where we've been hit with disbelief at the date on the calendar, wondering how it could be a decade since our favourite film was released, or several more since a major life event - but dwelling on a 'dreaded' number will simply throw you into a spiral of negativity.

"If you fight [getting older] and complain about its downside, you may be miserable for the rest of your life, because ageing is the one thing that doesn't get better," says Thomas. "If you can see the wrinkles forming in the mirror and be at peace with it now, then you'll be equally calm about it in five years' time."

"Keep working against ageing, and before long you will have lost the battle," says Thomas. "The secret to ageing is to face the loss of youthful beauty and strength, and from there use all of the resources we have to be creative, positive and optimistic."

AGEING IS A VERB

IF you thought growing old didn't require effort, you're



Learn to accept the signs of ageing with serenity



Age is just a number - dive right into life and enjoy whatever it brings

wrong. According to Thomas, ageing is a skill you need to cultivate, and fighting against time prohibits you from learning it properly.

"Ageing is an activity," he says. "It is something that you do, not something that happens. When you age - active verb - you are proactive."

"If you really age, you become a better person."

"We tend to see time as a line that inevitably moves along monotonously, like a conveyor belt in a factory. But life isn't so mechanical."

AGEING GIVES US BETTER VANTAGE POINT

"I don't worry about getting old - because I feel that my job is to respond to life, and not to control it," says Thomas, who is now 77.

Writing his book helped him to focus on matters he hadn't previously thought much about, he reflects. "I never thought so clearly before how ageing makes us naturally equipped for contemplation, making art, and learning things that are outside the usual curriculum."

I like the idea of following the signs

that ageing brings, to slow down and tell my story."

ACCEPT YOUR IMPERFECTIONS THE JAPANESE WAY

THE Japanese have a very handy word that's good to revisit when you're steeling yourself against the approach of a 'milestone birthday', or scrolling wistfully through legions of bronzed models on Instagram: it's called 'Wabi-Sabi'.

"Wabi-Sabi is the Japanese aesthetic in which imperfection, age, brokenness, and run-down

appearance are considered beautiful," says Thomas.

"This is not strange to the modern eye, which also appreciates furniture that has dents, scratches, and fading paint."

Think of how pleasing a weathered barn can be; this isn't entirely unlike a person who has lived a full life.

"We too may develop dents and scratches, and we too may be beautiful nonetheless," says Thomas. "As we go through both the satisfying and unsettling experiences of our unfolding lives, it helps to keep a simple phrase in mind: 'The beauty of imperfection.'"

SADNESS IS PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS

LOOKING in the mirror and spotting a grey hair can spark panic, and Thomas says it's OK to mourn the loss of youth and good looks.

"Melancholy is an old word for sadness - it's a natural aspect of ordinary living; it is not a disease or an aberration."

"Depression a modern word that implies an illness that can be treated with drugs, but you don't get medicine for melancholy."

However much we may dislike seeing wrinkles on our foreheads or bags under our eyes, feeling sad about the physical effects of time is all part of the growing process, he says.

"It makes sense that we feel sad about ageing. We lose many good qualities and abilities, but it's good to remember that we pick up new capacities gained from our experience and learning."

■ *Ageless Soul: An Uplifting Meditation On The Art Of Growing Older* by Thomas Moore is published by Simon & Schuster, priced £12.99

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY YOUNG AT HEART...

- Don't surrender yourself to an ageist culture that can't appreciate the value of experience and knowledge. Make a point not to fit in, and stand up for your age, whatever it is.
- Don't live up to your culture's expectations. Don't retire if you aren't ready. Pick up a new profession or skill in your older years. Don't hold yourself back just to fit in with your culture's limited ideas about ageing.
- Cultivate activities

appropriate to your age. Slow down when necessary, but speed up the artistic and contemplative side of life. Teach, write, paint and be in nature.

■ Stay close to the youth that is always in you. Because you never fully lose your younger self.

■ Use your learning and experience. You have a job to do, and that's showing the younger generation how to get along and live happily. They would be lost without your point of view.



Author Thomas Moore



CELEBRITY WELLBEING

Fashion guru Susannah Constantine found fame with Trinny Woodall on TV's *What Not To Wear* series. She tells **GABRIELLE FAGAN** how childhood experiences are the inspiration behind her new direction

I lost my confidence after TV show ended

IT'S EASY to assume that Susannah Constantine has led a charmed life. She dated both Princess Margaret's son, David Linley, and Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan in her youth. She also enjoyed a glamorous career in fashion PR and journalism, before finding fame presenting TV makeover programme *What Not to Wear* with Trinny Woodall.

The posh fashionistas who gave forthright advice about everything from 'saddlebags' to flat chests, were renowned for their 'boob grabs', had spin-off shows in eight countries and bestselling books in their millions. But after seven years, their popularity waned.

"We tried to keep the partnership going and to get more television work but nobody was interested. We both went into a stage of mourning afterwards, because it was such a huge part of our lives. I lost confidence and felt like, 'F**k, who am I? What am I doing?'" admits Susannah, 55, who's chatting to me in her rambling Sussex mansion.

In reality, for the fashion guru, the end of her high-profile TV career in 2008 was actually the second time in her life that she's had to reinvent herself. Painfully shy, anxious and prone to panic attacks because of a childhood marred by her mother's manic depression, it wasn't until she left home in her late teens that Susannah was truly able to blossom and discover her own identity.

It's these early traumatic experiences that she's drawn on as material for her new career as a novelist. Her debut fiction book, *After The Snow*, tells the story of an 11-year-old growing up with a mentally ill parent.

"There's a lot of me in the book. In so many ways I had a privileged upbringing and my mother was amazing, but her illness ran through our lives like a destructive thread. I remember waking up with a snowball of dread in my stomach just wondering how she'd be each day," she recalls.

"Sometimes she'd be manic and gabbling so fast that you couldn't understand her, while at other times, she'd be paranoid people were threatening us. Sometimes she'd lapse into depression where she was like a ghost. You could see the pain and anguish in her face, which was almost like her silently pleading for someone to make her feel better.

"She made numerous



After her TV career ended, Susannah turned to writing. Her first book, above, is out now



suicide attempts and was in and out of psychiatric hospitals. Her sudden, unexplained disappearances [to hospital] left me with a fear of abandonment. That early, ingrained anxiety about her left me vulnerable to panic attacks."

Her "worst moment" came when she visited her mother after one of her suicide attempts. "She was in a hospital bed, connected to tubes and was clearly terrified and confused. She was reaching out to me, trying to escape. It was harrowing seeing her like that and not being able to help her."

Unaware until she was 15 that her mother was ill – "my father was in denial and in those days, that sort of thing wasn't understood or even discussed" – she veered from "being constantly watchful, anxious

and trying to keep her safe" to "angry, because I thought wrongly for a long time that she could control what she did".

"I retreated into an imaginary world where I made up stories. I saw the illness as a demonic monster and I was a little girl trying to save her mother from its clutches."

"It was only when I left home in my late teens I felt somehow freed of the burden of responsibility for my mother and was able to focus on myself, decide who I wanted to be, and embrace life. It was a release in a way."

She has combined her continuing career in fashion with working on her debut novel over the past seven years, even plotting part of it while in 2015, appearing in TV's *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*

Writing it was a cathartic experience, says Susannah: "I don't want my childhood to sound like a sob story, because it definitely wasn't. The book's a tribute to my mother because her gift to me was making me strong, self-sufficient and showing me how to empathise with people."

However, there was one negative legacy from her childhood: her fear that she would inherit the illness.



Susannah with good friend Trinny launching Littlewoods Direct Spring/Summer Collection in 2008

Susannah confides: "I was absolutely terrified I had the same gene – my mother and I looked alike – and that at some point the illness would develop. It wasn't until I became a mother that I felt I could allow myself to believe I was going to be alright, because the illness usually occurs earlier in life."

These days, Susannah enjoys family life in Sussex with her Danish husband Sten Bertelsen, and their three children, Joe, 18, Esme, 16, and Cece, 13. Her friendship with Trinny is stronger than ever, too.

"When we met [in 1994] I felt I'd found a piece of me that was missing. It was the same for her. I'd never have had the career I have now without her. She's like a sister to me. We talk all the time and socialise as couples – me and Sten with her and Charles [Saatchi]. It's lovely to see her so happy."

"We had such an amazing time on the *What Not To Wear* shows. It was fantastic. I have such happy memories of those years. It was so brilliant seeing women emerge from layers of baggy or unflattering clothes they'd been hiding in. It was really about helping them find their inner confidence, rather than a new wardrobe of clothes," she explains.

Today, Susannah herself happily "slobs" around at home in jeans and baggy jumpers – the 'uniform' of the middle-aged women the pair took to task on their shows. "Of course, it's nice to dress up occasionally; I always do when I meet Trinny – otherwise she tells me off! But I love the fact that these days, people talk to me about what I've achieved – the book or my fashion projects – rather than focusing on my appearance. I feel content with who I am and I'm comfortable in my own skin."

■ *After The Snow* by Susannah Constantine, published by HQ, £12.99.

THREE WAYS TO...

CUT BACK ON ALCOHOL TO BOOST YOUR BONES

1 HAVE SEVERAL DRINK-FREE DAYS A WEEK:

If you want to cut down, abstain for a period of time. Test out having a break for yourself and see what positive results you notice.

2 FIND OTHER WAYS TO RELAX:

Some people drink alcohol to calm down, but in reality alcohol can make you feel even more stressed out. Try not to make alcohol key to your after-work wind down, and consider some alternative stress-busters, such as hitting the gym or having a hot bath.

3 KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRINKING:

Check out the ABV (alcohol by volume) of a drink before you buy it. ABV is the percentage of the drink that is pure alcohol. Six glasses of wine at 13% ABV equates to 15 units which puts you over the guidelines for low risk weekly intake (14 units).



DOCTOR'S NOTES

■ **LIVER** disease will overtake heart disease as the biggest cause of early death by 2020, says a team at Southampton University. Alcohol and obesity are key concerns and study authors back a minimum price on booze.

■ **MEN** will no longer require a prescription to obtain Viagra and will instead be able to buy it over the counter. Pharmacists will judge whether men can safely be sold the pills. Pfizer aims to get stocks of Viagra Connect (sildenafil 50mg) into pharmacies by next spring.

■ **BISCUITS** and crisps will lose their golden brown colour as rules coming in next April force manufacturers to reduce levels of acrylamide – a chemical found in burnt food which may lead to a higher risk of cancer.



Susannah with her husband, Sten Bertelsen

FOOD & DRINK

INGREDIENTS:

(Serves 10-12)

For the pastry:

200g '00' flour
200g chilled butter,
cubed
1 egg
100g caster (superfine)
sugar
1 level tsp baking powder
Finely grated zest
of ½ lemon

For the filling:

50g walnuts, roughly chopped
50g pine nuts
600g Swiss chard leaves
and thin, tender stalks, or
300g spinach leaves and
tender stalks, roughly chopped
Pinch of salt
10g salted or unsalted
butter, cubed
500g ricotta, drained
100g raisins
75g caster sugar
1tsp ground cinnamon
(optional)
Finely grated zest of ½ lemon
Ice cream, cream
or custard, to serve

METHOD:

1. To make the pastry, put the flour and butter in a bowl and rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg and the remaining ingredients and mix.
2. Form the pastry into a ball, wrap it in cling film and leave it to rest in the fridge for one hour. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4) and line a 24 x 3cm tart tin with baking parchment so that it protrudes above the edge of the dish by 2cm.

3. Put the walnuts and pine nuts in a roasting tray and toast them in the oven for five minutes. Remove and set aside to cool.

4. Put the Swiss chard or spinach leaves in a



pan with a little water, the salt and butter, cover and cook until soft and tender. Once soft, drain and leave until cool enough to handle. Squeeze the leaves between your hands to rid them of excess water.

5. Put the leaves on a board and chop them finely. When cool, mix them in a bowl with the remaining ingredients. Taste and adjust the flavour with more cinnamon or lemon zest.

6. Remove the pastry from the fridge, unwrap it, roll it out to a thickness of around 5mm and use it to line the tart tin. Prick the base with a fork and spoon in the filling, smoothing the surface with a palette knife. Trim excess pastry.
7. Roll out the leftovers and cut strips about 1cm wide with a pastry wheel. Create a lattice pattern on top. Bake for around 45 minutes.



A taste of Tuscany

ELLA WALKER enjoys a Tuscan masterclass from married chefs Giancarlo and Katie Caldesi and learns the history behind the food

WHEN I arrive for my Tuscan masterclass, Giancarlo Caldesi is whisking custard. He motions me over to sniff it, fragrant with saffron, before explaining – in great detail – the art of using cling film to seal in the warmth of the custard and avoid it growing a thick, school dinner-style skin. The man is all about detail, and all about cooking with emotion.

The Tuscan-born chef and his wife Katie, a cookery writer and former artist – who is stirring a bowl of ricotta and icing sugar, puffs of it dancing off the spoon – met in 1997.

Two decades on, they have two sons, two restaurants, La Cucina

Caldesi and Caffè Caldesi, and their own Italian cookery school.

But today, they are buzzing around their slick teaching kitchen, showing me how to make a whole menu's worth of dishes from their latest cookbook, *Tuscany*. It is their fifth book in a series that each take one Italian region as their focus; they've already covered the Amalfi Coast, Venice, Rome and Sicily.

Homegrown vegetables are key in traditional Tuscan cuisine.

Giancarlo was born and raised in Montepulciano Stazione, near the Umbrian border Katie explains, while her husband shows me (repeatedly) how to scoop the egg white-rich batter of a batch of Sienese almond biscuits into quenelles using two spoons, breaking off every now and again to scold me for being too rough with them ("You must be gentle," he cries).

"They only ate organic, seasonal, fresh, homegrown food," Katie says, describing her husband's childhood. "Giancarlo's mother would cook in a cauldron over a fire – we still have it, we serve pasta in it at parties."

It sounds idyllic, but it was a way of living dictated by poverty, combined with the tradition of eating what you've grown yourself.

Later, Katie gets me started on a sweet Swiss chard tart – yes, a greens stuffed dessert. "It's a traditional recipe from Lucca," she says, explaining how post-war poverty led to people bulking out dishes, savoury and sweet, with vegetables that were more available.

Italian cooking takes time, patience and care

As fun as he is, Giancarlo takes his food seriously: "In Italy there is a feeling to the food – you can tell if an Italian chef made it or not," he says. "You cannot be English in Italy, you must go with the flow."

"If you can't embrace the culture," he adds thoughtfully, "you can't embrace the food."

It would be tough to not embrace food like this.



Katie and Giancarlo Caldesi, left, and their book *Tuscany*: Simple Meals And Fabulous Feasts From Italy, above, Hardie Grant Books, £36



THE countdown is on. Your Christmas to-do list is well underway. The tree might be up, you're thinking about food and the presents are still a panic. It's my job to help you with drinkies – this week, red wines.

■ Pinot noir is one of my favourites: this grape is so versatile. **Jackson Estate Homestead Pinot Noir** (reduced to £10.49 at Waitrose until December 26, 13.5% abv) has ripe red fruits, is silky smooth with light tannins and has a touch of earthiness to match the veggie on your plate. Spar's **PN Pinot Noir** (£6, 13.5% abv) has plummy fruit, with pepper spice and is a winner in the quality versus price ratio; a lovely wine. At Lidl, **Baden**

RAISE A GLASS

WITH JANE CLARE



Spatburgunder (£8.99, 12.5% abv) has light tannins and lovely raspberry notes. Spatburgunder is the German name for pinot noir.

■ Reds from the Americas: your wine choice has to stand up to turkey, sprouts, bread sauce, sausages and bacon. **Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon 2015** (reduced to £10 at Tesco until January 1, 14% abv) is a big Chilean cabernet full of dark cherry fruit. It's a strong,

concentrated flavour and won't be overawed by honey-basted parsnips. If you prefer roast beef then this juicy **Argentinian Mora Vista Special Selection Malbec 2016** (£9.99, Virgin Wines, 12.5% abv) has dense, plummy fruit but with a light finish. Back to Chile and **Viu Manent ViBo Vinado Centenario 2013** (RRP £16.99, oddbins.com, 13.5% abv) is intense with blackcurrants with an element of mint, of freshness and complexity which won't overpower your Christmas plate.

■ A flirt with France: Beaujolais is great with hard cheeses, and its fruitiness will add a lift to most meats and your Boxing Day buffet. **Henry Fessy Brouilly 2015** (RRP £12.99, Waitrose) offers a

raspberry medley with cheese and doesn't demand a palate battle. Hot off the press, and Morrisons **The Best Fleurie, 2016** (£8.25, 13% abv) has won silver in the new International Wine Challenge awards. Oh, my, cherries and violets. Or how about a Bordeaux. **Château Sénéjac Cru Bourgeois** (reduced to £14.99 at the Co-op up to December 13) is a delicious wine from the Left Bank, plums, spice, mocha, and woody notes. It is complex yet not overpowering and perfect for Christmas lunch.

■ Fireside riojas for a moment of calm: Tesco finest* **Viña del Cura Rioja Gran Reserva DOC 2011** (£11, 14% abv) is a delicious fruity wine with notes of

blackberry. It is light enough to enjoy as a drink to wind down at the end of the day; or its berry flavours would be perfect with turkey, duck, beef or game.

Palacios Remondo Rioja Crianza La Montesa 2013 (RRP £16.49 Ocado, 13% abv) has classic notes of raspberry and red cherry, and more strawberries than most riojas. A bit of a treat.

■ The last word: Asda's Wine Atlas range was created to help people discover wines from lesser known regions. Better still, they don't break the bank. **Wine Atlas Negroamaro** (£5.68) is a stunning berry-packed rich, juicy red from Italy. I loved the burst of fruits on the nose.

■ I'll share some last-minute reds with you the week before Christmas.



**INGREDIENTS:****(Serves 4-6)**

1 x 600g pork tenderloin
 ½ tsp fine sea salt
 ¼ tsp ground black pepper
 1tbsp chicken fat or extra-virgin olive oil

For the dust:

2tsp dried rosemary needles
 1tsp dried sage or 3 large fresh sage leaves
 1tsp fennel seeds, crushed

To serve:

Lentils

METHOD:

1. Start by making the dust. If you are using dried herbs, crush them with the seeds (if using) with a pestle and mortar or a spice grinder. If using fresh herbs, finely chop them together with the seeds (if using) on a board.
 2. Evenly sprinkle one tablespoon of dust on the tenderloin over a piece of baking parchment with the salt and pepper. Trim away any tough silver skin from the tenderloin and roll it in the dust on the paper. Roll up the loin in the parchment, place it on a plate and set aside in the fridge for at

MEATY MARVEL**PORK TENDERLOIN****WITH FLAVIO'S****TUSCAN 'DUST'**

least 30 minutes.

3. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4). Remove the pork from the fridge and allow it to come to room temperature. Heat the chicken fat or oil in a large non-stick frying pan and, when hot, add the pork and brown it all over.
 4. Transfer to a roasting tin and cook in the oven for 12-15 minutes or until it is firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and set aside, covered in foil and a tea towel to rest for 10 minutes. Cut into roughly 1cm-thick slices and arrange on top of warm lentils, with any cooking juices poured over the meat.

INGREDIENTS:**(Serves 4-6 people)**

250g ricotta, drained
 4tbsp cold espresso
 3tbsp caster sugar (superfine), plus more to taste
 2tsp Cognac
 20g dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)

METHOD:

1. Whisk the ricotta in a bowl with the coffee, sugar and

the Cognac. Taste and adjust the sweetness as necessary, adding more sugar if you wish.

2. Spoon into small glasses, taking care not to splash it onto the sides of the glass. Use a sharp knife to shave curls of chocolate and scatter them over top.
 3. Keep them in the fridge for up to one day until you are ready to eat them.

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- ✓ Admission to beautiful Kylemore Abbey
- ✓ Visits to the towering Cliffs of Moher and the lunar-like landscape of the Burren
- ✓ Explore the National Museum of Ireland Country Life
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- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Five nights' four-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

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PUZZLE TIME

Pathfinder

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Rihanna songs

R E B F O D L R I D O N S I C
U D O E U N O E W E D T U M E
H S Y W E E V T E S S P T H
U T R I V O N T A I U T O K A
P U D N I L L E N R R B A E T
A N D T H R Y L U O W O Y O U
L R O W E I G A M E T E E V O
D D P O I S T N Y U A T H A L
A I L N D Y U R M M H A L T I
M F U D E A L B S B R E L T S
O H T I R E P I T A H O S O I
N D F A U O Y A W H W S N W H
P S N U R L E V I E R O U N T
R C E E F I H I L H E Y B U R
I N S S O F C N A A V E E E N

Split Decision

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

R	H	G	E	L	M	K	L	T	O
O	U		A	I			C	H	
L	P	A	E	S	D	R	T	E	S
E	W		G	S		A	I		
S	D	R	B	E	O	F	W	R	N

Sudoku

There is one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

	1		9		8	7		
4	6			2	7			9
		9		6	5		4	3
6	3				1			
		1	6			8		
				9			2	1
2	9		7			3		
			4	1			6	8
	8	6	5		3		7	

Hard

	2		6			4		
	1	3	7					
				3				
9				8		6		
	5		4		2		9	
		7		9				8
				1				
	4				8	2	5	
		9			6		7	

Two Speed Crossword

This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid. If you can't solve the Cryptic clue, try the Quick.

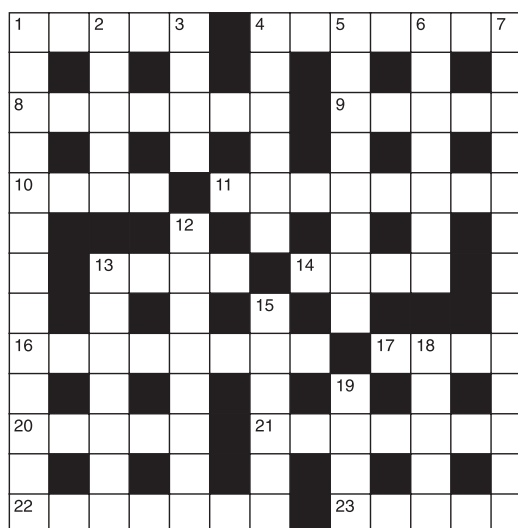
Cryptic

Across

- Back-biter! (5)
- The last form of secrecy (7)
- The French I hurt, but only in fun (7)
- A feature one must consider in pricing cakes! (5)
- They marked the passing of the horse-drawn vehicle (4)
- Being of true race perhaps (8)
- It sounds a crude measure (4)
- It's made to last (4)
- Put into water and simmered, perhaps (8)
- Transport, thanks to the team (4)
- Hesitantly stated a colour and was wrong (5)
- Brought facts to light, once one had asked questions (7)
- To commit it one rats perhaps! (7)
- Going backwards or forwards a helicopter needs it (5)

Down

- Important occurrence - concerning an army officer? (5,8)
- He composed the last letter in the catalogue (5)
- It flies or takes a train (4)
- Makes things less sharp (6)
- Not the happiest inscriptions? Yet they could be! (8)
- A lie and a ruse may obtain some free time (7)
- He takes the lot (7,6)
- Pals in the trade unions? (8)
- Some err badly and show regret (7)
- It flows always between North and South (6)
- Tessa came up with something useful (5)
- Fight, probably rigged (4)



Scribble pad

Codeword

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

7	16	8	4		13	1	14	17	2	26	5	6
1		12			16				4		16	4
6		1	4	8	16	25	12	5		8		16
24	18	26				16			2	12	1	8
26		6			12	22	14	11			26	12
	7	1	18	22		7		9	1	16	15	19
				5		4			16			
11	12	13	5	4		5		20	12	7	21	
26		14			10	4	1	16		1		23
1	16	11	4			11			12	5	5	
12		3		8	6	11	26	4	1	6		18
19		18		12			1			16		19
9	1	4	12	1	14	5	6		11	19	18	17

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				L							A	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Wordsquare

Give yourself ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the grid. Each word must use the central letter and at least 3 others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate:

15 words - average; 25 words - good; 35 words - very good; 40 or more - excellent.

E	E	U
E	A	B
R	L	G

Quiz

- Neil Morrissey and Tamsin Greig were among the stars of which recent BBC1 drama, set in the first week of September 1997?
- Of which South American country is Asunción the capital?
- How many cards are in a standard pack of playing cards, excluding jokers?
- Which American tennis player won the US Open in 1968 and the Wimbledon title in 1975?
- What name is



Q1 - Tamsin Greig

- given to the first ten amendments to the US Constitution, incorporated in 1791?
- Of which country was Shimon Peres prime minister?
- Which American diplomat and scientist is famous for flying a kite in a thunderstorm?
- By what name is the German Shepherd dog commonly known?
- Who is the patron saint of England?
- Which famous art society is based at Burlington House in London?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Pathfinder

Alligator, Rattlesnake, Hawksbill turtle, Python, Monitor lizard, Anaconda, Caiman, Horned viper, Slow-worm, Perentie, King cobra, Chameleon, Basilisk, Leatherback turtle, Iguana, Komodo dragon, Terrapin, Skink, Chuckwalla, Boa constrictor, Copperhead, Crocodile, Gecko, Tortoise.

Quiz

- Strike: The Cuckoo's Calling; 2. Africa;
- Magnesium; 4. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; 5. Asbestos;
- Jersey; 7. Bile; 8. INRI; 9. Hungary;
- Ascot.

Sudoku

3	7	1	4	9	2	5	8	6
6	2	4	1	5	8	3	9	7
8	5	9	3	7	6	2	4	1
5	3	2	9	4	7	6	1	8
1	6	7	2	8	5	4	3	9
4	9	8	6	3	1	7	2	5
9	8	3	5	6	4	1	7	2
2	4	5	7	1	9	8	6	3
7	1	6	8	2	3	9	5	4

4	6	1	5	9	7	2	8	3
8	5	7	3	6	2	9	1	4
3	9	2	8	1	4	6	7	5
2	4	6	7	3	9	1	5	8
5	1	8	4	2	6	7	3	9
7	3	9	1	8	5	4	2	6
6	2	5	9	7	3	8	4	1
1	7	4	6	5	8	3	9	2
9	8	3	2	4	1	5	6	7

Codeword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	G	R	J	D	E	X	H	O	Z	Y	I	U
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	V	L	Q	K	A	S	B	W	N	F	P	M

Quick

Across

- Tooth (5)
- Cunning (7)
- Joking (7)
- Cake topping (5)
- Furrows (4)
- Animal (8)
- Crucifix (4)
- Footwear item (4)
- Plunged into liquid (8)
- Cab (4)
- Strayed (5)
- Revealed (7)
- Betrayal of one's sovereign (7)
- Helicopter's aerofoil (5)

Down

- Significant event (5,8)
- Hungarian composer (5)
- Horizontal bar (4)
- Carbohydrates (6)
- Tombstone inscriptions (8)
- Time to relax (7)
- One who offers most money (7,6)
- Associates (8)
- Guilt (7)
- British river (6)
- Item of value (5)
- Box (4)

Leisure

24/7 Advertising for private and trade

Concerts

SING CHRISTMAS! Witham Choral - Christmas Music & carols for choir and audience, Witham Public Hall, Saturday 9 December, 7.30pm. Prices: full-time £5; Others: £12. Tel: 03450 17871 or 01376 513713

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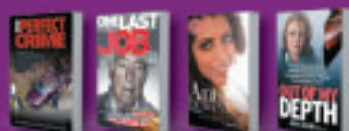
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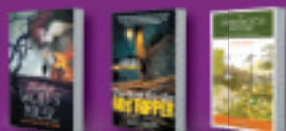
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PAST TIMES

It was the clash of the Hollywood divas when Bette Davis and Joan Crawford appeared in horror thriller *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* **MARION McMULLEN** looks at the insults that flew when the cameras stopped rolling

THE best time I ever had with Joan Crawford was when I pushed her down the stairs in *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* Bette Davis once exclaimed with glee.

The 1962 movie saw the two Hollywood heavyweights playing sisters who hated each other's guts, but were forced to live together in a decaying mansion.

Joan Crawford first came across the novel of the same name and realised she had found the perfect part for herself playing an actress who is left paraplegic after a car accident. But she needed to bring her bitter Hollywood rival Bette Davis on board to play her character's former child star sister.

Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon play the two Hollywood legends in BBC2's *Feud: Bette And Joan* this month. The drama explores how the two stars endured ageism, sexism and misogyny while struggling to hang on to success and fame in the twilight of their careers.

But there was certainly no love lost between the two. Joan once said of Bette: "Take away the pop eyes, the cigarette and those funny clipped words and what have you got?"

While Bette came back with: "Why am I so good at playing b**ches? I think it's because I'm not a b**ch. Maybe that's why [Joan Crawford] always plays ladies."

She also famously claimed: "She has slept with every male star at MGM except Lassie."

Joan, though, had insults down to a fine art and once said of working with Bette: "Sure, she stole some of my big scenes, but the funny thing is, when I see the movie again, she stole them because she looked like a parody of herself, and I still looked like something of a star."

Joan and Bette were each offered a share of the profits for the movie, so were heavily invested in making the film a success. They eventually both made more than a million dollars each when *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* triumphed at the box office.

Joan was once asked if she hid weights on her body so that Bette would have a hard time lifting her from a bed in one scene. "Weights," she cried, "and have Bette tell everyone I was as heavy as an elephant. Absolutely not. I may not have made it as easy for her to lift me out of the bed as I could have, at least at first, but when you're a pro you get



Bette Davis struggles to drag the dead weight of Joan Crawford off the bed



The hatred between the sisters seemed to mirror the arch rivalry between the Hollywood grand dames



Ever the best of enemies



Jessica Lange as Joan and Susan Sarandon as Bette, left, recreate a scene from the hit film



over any animosity you may feel and help your fellow player out. It simply didn't happen."

And Bette declared: "If you want a thing well done, get a couple of old broads to do it."

But she also admitted: "I have been uncompromising, peppery, intractable, monomaniacal, tactless, volatile

and oft times disagreeable. I suppose I'm larger than life. [Joan] and I have never been warm friends. We are not simpatico. I admire her and yet I feel uncomfortable with her. To me, she is the personification of the Movie Star. I have always felt her greatest performance is Crawford being Crawford."

Her rival was not impressed when it was Bette and not herself who was later awarded the Best Actress Oscar for the film saying: "She acted like it was a one-woman show after they nominated her. What was I supposed to do, let her hog all the glory, act like I hadn't even been in the movie? She got the nomination. I didn't

begrudge her that, but it would have been nice if she'd been a little gracious in interviews and given me a little credit. I would have done it for her."

Bette's career before the film had been in a slump and she even took out full-page advertisements in the trade press asking for work. But she always insisted: "Until you're known in my profession as a monster, you're not a star."

Joan agreed saying: "You have to be self-reliant and strong to survive in this town. Otherwise you will be destroyed."

Still she could not resist taking a swipe on Bette Davis and her 1952 movie *The Star*. "I had heard she was supposed to be playing me, but I didn't believe it. Did you see the picture? It couldn't possibly be me. Bette looked so old, and so dreadfully overweight."

But Bette had the last word when Joan passed away in 1977. "You should never say bad things about the dead, you should only say good... Joan Crawford is dead. Good."

■ *Feud: Bette And Joan* starts on BBC2 at 9pm on December 16.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

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TOP TABLE

It's not just
about the food
when it comes to
festive dining

PAGES 40&41



UNUSUAL FEATURE AT 16TH CENTURY FARMHOUSE

This beautiful property has been upgraded and extended to create a stunning family home which offers a wealth of period features PAGES 38&39



HOT HOUSE



A 16th century farmhouse has gone on the market near Harlow for over £1million. Property agents Howick & Brooker are offering this grade II listed home in Carters Green, Matching Tye, Matching, for £1.25m.

Entering the property, residents will immediately be impressed by the presentation of the house.

It is well laid out with a large back to front double aspect living room, which comes with an Inglenook fireplace, and second reception/family room at the far end of the property.

Upstairs there are four good sized double bedrooms with the master bedroom enjoying its own dressing room and en-suite shower.

The three other bedrooms are complimented by a separate family bathroom with both having been upgraded to a high specification throughout.

Views of open farmland can be seen from a good sized mainly lawned garden and it also enjoys shared ownership of a natural pond with the next door neighbours.

One of the most intriguing parts of this home is that it comes with a two-storey outbuilding made of timber and brick construction that comes with a fireplace.

It is in need of refurbishment but could offer real potential to be developed into a studio or small annexe.

The property sits within a private location of Carters Green, a small hamlet made up of few individual cottages and houses.

It is ideally located a few miles from the M11 motorway which will give you access to London.

If you are interested in this property call Howick and Brooker on 01279 418888.



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YOUR HOME

Turn the tables this Christmas

GABRIELLE FAGAN reveals how to lay on the festive style with a terrific table setting

The festive season is almost upon us, which means it's time to step up to the table – and transform it into a stunning setting for the most important meal of the day (or of the year, really).

Choose from a colour scheme of silver, gold or classic red and white (maybe with a dash of Highland tartan) for a Christmas table that will attract just as many compliments as the food.

We've already scouted out the best buys on the high street; all you need to do is choose your favourites, and then pop on some carols and set the scene...

SET A SILVER SHIMMER

"Forget any minimalist tendencies and go all out with the glamour and sparkle this Christmas. Gold or silver are festive favourites, but this year, also consider introducing dark, moody tones," says Clare Harris, managing director at Talking Tables (talkingtables.co.uk).

"A grey or even black tablecloth creates a dramatic backdrop, and



Gold and animal print make for a funky table setting: **Leopard-print dinner set, currently reduced from £25 to £20; Glitter stag ornament, £5, George Home at Asda**

shows off your table decorations more effectively than white. If you're going for a single colour, use a mix of textures and finishes.

"A collection of beautiful mercury glass baubles moves a silver scheme from classic to contemporary, especially with the introduction of glittering disco balls.

"Surprise your guests by taking your table scheme in new directions," she adds.

"Clusters of paper honeycomb, and pom-pom decorations hung overhead, are a new approach to table decorating, which saves crucial table space and elevates the setting."

Red, white and tartan touches make for a truly traditional table: **Pine cone candelabra, £45, and pine cone dinner candle holder, £17.50; Set of 3 berry tree picks, £5; Set of 4 tartan napkins, £15; Bistro dinner plate, £6, and side plate, £5; 80 silver LED wire lights, £9.50, all Marks and Spencer**



Make a table sparkle with silver and white: **Luxury Hotel Collection Harrington 44 piece cutlery set, £130; Linea set of 10 copper and champagne crackers, £18 for pack of 10; Linea Hotel Collection Pembury glassware, from £22; Linea paper stars LED lights, £14; Silver effect mercury bauble, £6; Star Votive candleholder, from £8-£20; Prelit natural snow garland, all House of Fraser**

■ **TIP:** Iridescent decorations are particularly effective at picking up the light and work beautifully with silver tones. Choose a variety of shapes and sizes, hang from the ceiling with clear wire and attach with removable sticky hooks. For a super-glamorous party-fee, hang a metallic foil curtain behind your table.

GO FOR GLITTERING GOLD

"The Christmas table is an opportunity to go completely OTT and let your creative flair run wild. The whole day is about extravagance, indulgence and glamour, so I love to go a little crazy with the decorating,"

says Jenny Hurren, founder of Out There Interiors (outthereinteriors.com).

"The food is a beautiful sight in itself, but why not add some glitz and

glamour to the proceedings and adorn the table with beautiful place settings, decorative touches and 'the decent' china?

"My favourite is gold-painted twigs and foliage," adds Jenny.

"Eucalyptus leaves look stunning with a touch of gold spray paint. Run a few sprigs along the middle of the table, intertwining them through glass stems, around dishes and bowls and dangle them off the end.

"Use small bunches of them tied with ribbon and a named luggage label as a truly personal place setting.

"If you have the space, add a statement centre piece, such as a quirky gold pineapple, and team the

whole look with fresh white linens and elegant glassware."

■ **TIP:** Arrange a procession of candle holders of varying heights down the centre of the table. Clear



A glamorous setting featuring top picks from Debenhams, including Jasper Conran round decanter, £36; Silver stag Christmas candelabra, currently reduced to £24.50 from £35; Gold metallic napkins, currently reduced to £9.80 from £14 for set of four; Gold beaded napkin rings, currently reduced to £11.20 from £16 for set of four; Canvas home white metallic glazed dauville dinner plates, £30 each, and matching Bowls £15 each
* Prices correct at time of going to print. Offers available while stocks last



glass holders, mirrored place mats and metallic table scatter will reflect the light and add glamour.

STAY TRUE TO TRADITION

"Always start with a theme and keep to one or two key colours, and then



Decadent Decs iridescent star decorations, £9.99 per pack, Talking Tables



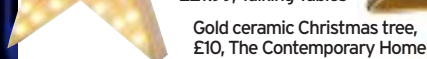
Botanical Christmas paper plates, £4.49 for pack of 12, Talking Table



Botanical clip-on robins, £9.99 per pack, Talking Tables



Party Illuminations wooden star light, £27.99, Talking Tables



Gold ceramic Christmas tree, £10, The Contemporary Home

build up the setting. Have in mind the general look you want to achieve, for example classic red and white, rustic, opulent or minimal," says Danielle Tolson, co-founder of Tolly McRae (tollymcray.co.uk), specialists in luxury table linen, among other things.

"This year, I'll be using gold as the core theme, with dusky pink accents, and I'm going for an overall opulent effect. More is more as far as I'm concerned, and our table will be crammed with flickering candles, sparkling cutlery and glasses.

"For a centrepiece, a glass bowl filled with pine cones, baubles or even a foliage garland is effective.

"Alternatively, lightly spray fruit – pomegranates, pineapples and other exotic fruit – with gold paint and arrange in a clear glass bowl. Add a string of twinkling fairy lights."

■ **TIP:** Fill miniature bottles with a special tippie and write each guest's name on it using a metallic Sharpie pen; these will serve as both a place card and a sweet favour.



Set of 4 wine glasses, £14, Next

Star dinnerware side plates, £10 for set of four; matching dinner plates, £14 for set of four, and pasta bowls, £14 for set of four, Next

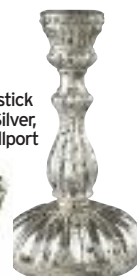


Gold bell place card holders, £5.99 for pack of six, Ginger Ray



Red and white reindeer Christmas tea light holders, £5 each, The Contemporary Home

Silver candlestick in Antiqued Silver, £8, Sophie Allport



Botanical holly Christmas crackers, £12.99 for pack of six, Talking Tables



Bloomingville champagne glasses, £79 for a set of six, Out There Interiors



Copper wire dome candle holder, currently reduced to £19 from £39, Out There Interiors

WHERE TO BUY:
debenhams.com;
direct.asda.com;
gingerray.co.uk;
houseoffraser.co.uk;
marksandspencer.com;
next.co.uk;
outthereinteriors.com;
sophieallport.com;
talkingtables.co.uk;
tch.net

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essexlive.news/property



PROPERTY TALK

With Nigel Lewis

Harry Styles, pictured below, bought his West Hollywood home in 2016

LA PAD WITH A TOUCH OF STYLES

Although all the remaining members of One Direction have released solo material since the group took a break in 2016, 23-year-old Harry Styles has been one of the most prolific and successful.

As well as a No.1 solo album and chart-topping single - Sign of the Times - Harry also starred in this summer's blockbuster movie Dunkirk and appeared in a BBC TV documentary about himself. He's currently completing a sell-out world tour of Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the US and Asia.

But what's less well known is that he's also been busy renovating a house in Los Angeles. He bought the property in West Hollywood for \$6.87m in early 2016 and has since set about completing a renovation and upgrade of the house, which now includes a bamboo-fringed pool, gym, home cinema and glass walls.

The property also offers jaw-dropping, uninterrupted views over Sunset Boulevard from its master bedroom, a long, gated drive as well as



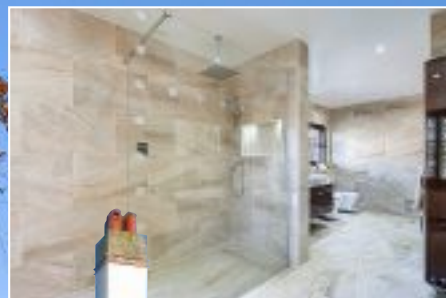
five bedrooms, three bathrooms, a sun terrace and open-plan lounge.

But he has found time to step out in Los Angeles, and in May this year played with Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks at the city's The Troubadour music venue.

But according to his estate agent the singer is increasingly busy working in New York and London and, despite having owned his Los Angeles home for only 18 months, doesn't use it much now.

It's for sale with agent Hilton & Hyland (+1 310 278 3311) for \$8.495m.

Lorraine Kelly's six-bedroom Dundee home



Kelly's zeros

Breakfast TV star Lorraine's stunning home goes on market for £825,000

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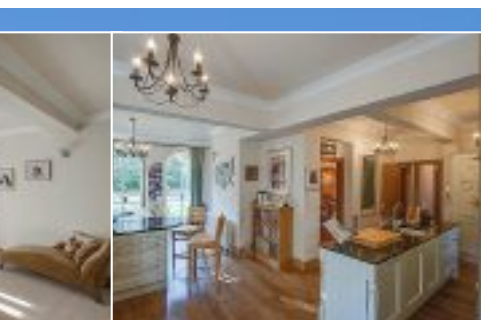


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HERTFORD 01992 586570, CHESHUNT 01992 635735



TV presenter Lorraine Kelly has been the queen of morning TV for at least two decades and since 2010, has hosted her own eponymous show for ITV.

She started her presenting career during the 1980s at TV-am, later moving to GMTV alongside Eamon Holmes before getting her own morning show, which she still presents every weekday.

The former model's lilting tones, infectious laugh, print dresses, fireside chat style and soft but direct questioning have helped keep her career flying high despite the fickle nature of breakfast TV.

In 1992 Lorraine married cameraman Steve Smith with whom she has one daughter, Rosie, born in 1994.

Since 2010 the family has lived in a grand detached house in Dundee, hidden behind a long line of trees in the wealthy suburb of Broughton Ferry.

But it's time for them to move on and the property, called Melfort, is on the market for £825,000. It is described by its agents Savills as "one of the most stunning properties in the area".

It has three reception rooms, six bedrooms and has been refurbished by Lorraine including new double-glazing throughout, the addition of an Aga cooker, the boiler replaced and master bedroom and en-suite bathroom upgraded.

More information from Savills (01356 628 628).

Donald Campbell was the kind of adventurer we rarely see these days, a man who dedicated his life to being the fastest in the world and who, during the 1950s and 1960s, set both land and water speed records.

The public fascination with the danger and glamour of his exploits made him a star before tragedy struck.

On January 4, 1967, Campbell tried to bag a world record and prepared to exceed 300mph on Coniston Water in Cumbria.

During his second attempt the boat flipped, crashed and sank. Although his body was not recovered until 2001

FAST SALE ON CARDS FOR SPEED LEGEND'S EX-HOME



and his speed records were subsequently beaten, he remains the only person to have achieved both world land and speed records in the same year.

One of his former homes is now for sale. Roundwood Hall, like Campbell's other family homes in the Surrey

countrywide, is where he perfected, maintained, built and stored his famous Bluebird cars and boats.

Dating from the 1930s, the property has four reception rooms, a study, six bedrooms, an out-building-cum-annexe, formal gardens, woodland and a tennis court. It's for sale at £1.995 million.

More information from Hamptons International (01306 580 182).



Dunkirk, this year's blockbuster about the rescue of hundreds of thousands of British troops from a beach in France was a critical and commercial hit.

To film the realistic scenes of the motley flotilla that ferried the troops to safety the movie's makers searched out era appropriate vessels.

One of those hired was Xylonite, a Thames sailing barge that

BARGE HOME HAS DUNKIRK SPIRIT

featured in several scenes. The 86ft long and 18.5ft wide barge was built in 1926 and worked the waters off the East Coast of England until 1977.

But what those watching Dunkirk won't have known is that Xylonite is a four-bedroom luxury floating home normally moored

at St Katherine's Dock near Tower Bridge in London.

She's for sale and the next owners will enjoy her huge galley, open-plan lounge and fittings you'd expect of a luxury home.

She's certified to be sailed at sea and is being sold via Riverhomes.co.uk for £395,000.



MAKE SUGGS'S 'OUR HOUSE'

Pop band Madness is still going strong despite 37 years having passed since their first hit album, One Step Beyond, was released.

The hits have continued to flow, including 15 top ten singles and a No.1 - House of Fun. The band's mix of ska, witty lyrics and outrageously silly videos has given Madness a loyal following across the generations, helped by a relentless gigging schedule.

Much of its 'nutty boys' persona is down to lead singer Suggs who, as well



Suggs's former Camden home

as regular appearances on TV, writes much of the band's material.

He, like the rest of Madness, hails from Camden in North London and despite fame and fortune hasn't wandered far.

One of his early homes in the area is currently for sale. It's a mews house he occupied during the early years of Madness and was bought by the current owner from the singer during the late 1980s.

Suggs bought the property in 1981 and in his autobiography recalls how he "finally arrived at my newly purchased house in Camden Mews. It had been part of the stables for the bigger houses at the back. It was pretty, but tiny. One half of the downstairs was a garage which we were eventually going to convert".

It has subsequently been expanded and now includes a fully fitted kitchen, large reception room, three double bedrooms and three bathrooms.

It's for sale at £1.95m. Call Savills on 0203 428 2900 for more information.

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YOUR GARDEN

With Diarmuid Gavin

In the midst of our chilly season – when we dress up in winter woollies and our breath turns to fog as we step outdoors – it's a time for hope.

Hope is encapsulated in remarkable little items called seeds. They are one of nature's main ways of ensuring that plants survive through propagation and, in the case of many fruit and vegetables, help to keep us alive.

From the earliest times, humans have worked with seeds – collecting, storing and sowing them.

It's a very basic symbiotic way of working with nature.

The gardening industry has always embraced seeds, cross-breeding plants and looking for new and better varieties – stronger, taller, greener or more colourful. So every year there's a new crop of goodies for us to be inspired by, and while the outside is cold now, once the seasons change, the soil will warm up and welcome the seeds which in turn will germinate and change into beautiful plants.

Here's my pick of the bunch – and bear in mind they will also make excellent stocking-filler presents for Christmas.

Plant World Seeds (plant-world-seeds.com, 01803 872939) in Devon is always a good source for rare and unusual seeds.

Emilia Scarlet Magic is a half-hardy annual which produces a great profusion of sprays of fluffy, scarlet

Salute the kernel

Every year there's a new crop of seeds to inspire us... and they make fabulous stocking fillers

Nigella mulberry rose



Nicotiana 'Starlight Dancer'
Credit:
chiltern
seeds.co.uk



Zinnia
'Cupid
mixture'

Poppy lovers will like *Roemeria hybrida*, which has papery violet flowers opening to anthers delicately dusted in sky-blue pollen and deeply divided foliage reminiscent of the Californian poppy.

Another favourite place to shop is **Chiltern Seeds** (chilternseeds.co.uk, 01491 824675).

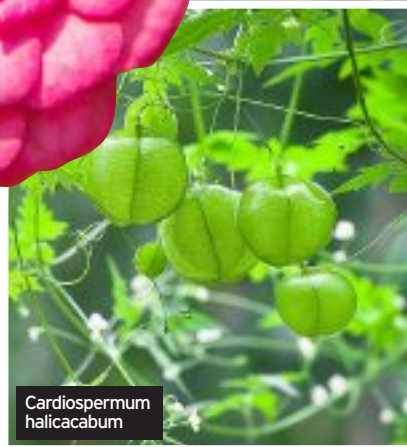
New for 2018 is a beautiful poppy called 'Black Swan' with dark purple, frizzy-petalled double flowers with green-grey foliage.

There's a lovely variety of tobacco plant, *Nicotiana* 'Starlight Dancer' with pretty white flowers which will dance in the breeze, borne on tall slender stems.

Zinnia fans will like its 'Cupid Mixture', a collection of small

pompom flowers in a vivid array of colours.

Over at **sarahraven.com** (0345 092 0283), I spotted *Cardiospermum halicacabum*, also known as love-in-a-puff. This is a half-hardy annual climber – flowers are followed by green balloon seedpods, each one



Cardiospermum
halicacabum

holding a black seed inside marked with a perfect white heart. Also new is *Dolichos lablab* 'Ruby Moon', another tender climber with purple spires of bean-like flowers followed by glossy, purple black pods.

Nigella, love-in-a-mist, is one of

Emilia Scarlet Magic



This leaf pile would make a lovely home for a hedgehog



Collect seeds for sowing in spring

■ Take a walk through your garden and see which seeds or berries are available to collect for spring sowings.

■ Not everything needs to be tidied up – a pile of leaves can make a cosy bed for a hedgehog this winter.

■ Acers and birches which need pruning should be done now to avoid the risk of bleeding – their sap rises early so don't leave it until spring. In general, they

JOBS FOR THE WEEK

don't require any pruning, but if there is a branch in an awkward position or it is diseased, give it the chop.

■ Vines can be pruned hard, back to two buds of last year's growth, to encourage fruiting spurs.

■ There are still a fair amount of weeds in the

ground – dig them out or spray them off so you don't have to face them in the spring.

■ Have you put all your garden furniture indoors or covered it up? In the garage, it can be cleaned or rubbed with oil as necessary, or given a fresh lick of paint.

■ Retailers are discounting bulbs now, so grab some and get them in the ground.



Vines can be pruned hard

Roemeria hybrida



the easiest annuals, and 'Mulberry Rose' is a beautiful mix of rich deep mulberry pink flowers.

Unwins' (unwins.co.uk, 0844 573 8400) new range includes bouquet collections, a blend of flowers which are good for cutting as well as drying.

'Raspberry Ripple Collection' is a mix of shades of white and pink - Ammi Majus Graceland, Cosmos Razzmatazz, Cosmos Cosmonaut and Cleome Sparkler, while 'Lime Sapphire Spectacular Collection' is a



Papaver somniferum

grow and will bloom late June-September. Enjoy their bright flowers and sweet scent - and never forget.

Begonia growers will like BIG DeluXXe Rose, which will produce large flowers and a vigorous growth habit. In a warm summer, plants can reach a height of 85cm and a spread of 60cm.

The giant, bushy plants will be smothered in rose-coloured flowers, set off to perfection against the dramatic bronze foliage, all summer long.

sophisticated combination of Sweet Pea Cream Eggs, Cerinthe Blue Kiwi, Eryngium Alpine Sea Holly and Nicotiana Lime Green.

Next year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War, and in recognition of this, **Dobies** (dobies.co.uk, 0844 967 0303) has put together this patriotic mix of beautiful red, white and blue sweet peas.

They're large-flowered, easy-to-

ASK DIARMUID

Q Could you please tell me how to grow hydrangeas? Do I take cuttings now or later in the year?

Is it better to take cuttings at the bottom of the existing plant or at the top? And is it better to take a cutting below the leaf or above?

Also, could you please tell me which compost I should use.

Finally, do I water them in a pot or the ground?

Frank Johnson

A Hi Frank. Hydrangeas grow very well from cuttings. Do this in summer with softwood



Hydrangeas

or semi-ripe cuttings, or now with hardwood cuttings (juvenile stems are soft but harden with age over the summer).

In all cases, you need to cut a robust-looking, non-flowering shoot about six

inches in length for hardwood.

You cut just below a leaf node, which is where you find the greatest concentration of growth hormones. A gritty compost is best - ground or pot is fine for hardwood - and yes, keep them watered.

PLANT OF THE WEEK

MALUS 'RED SENTINEL'

Looking for a small tree for your front garden which has long seasonal interest?

This crab apple will only reach six metres at maturity, so will make a good specimen tree for smaller plots.

Lots of fragrant flowers in May are followed by cherry-like

scarlet fruits which persist on the tree through midwinter.

Harvest them to make jelly, or leave for the birds to feast on.

An easy-to-grow tree, Red Sentinel is self-pollinating and will also pollinate your apple trees.



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SHOP HOME



Light-up letters at Marks & Spencer, £5 each, come in red, gold and silver



Doe reindeer spun Christmas figure, £119.99, lights4fun.co.uk



LED cushion, £6.99, Studio.co.uk



House scene, £6, B&Q
You can hide the battery pack behind the display.

All prices correct at time of going to press

Icicle star lights, £25, B&Q

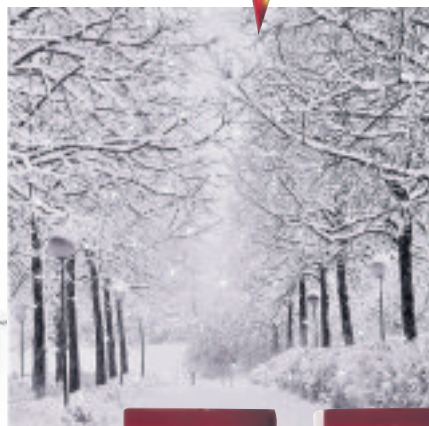
Silver ball lights, £10.62
kikker landeu.com

Light-up vase, £29.99, Very.co.uk

Red star, £3, Flying Tiger
Light-up LED star

BRIGHT IDEAS

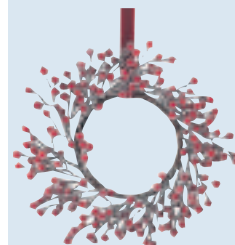
Christmas helps to brighten up the drab, dark winter months, and these stylish festive lights will give it a helping hand



Joy light, £15, Wilko
At 45cm wide, it'll make an impact if you stand it up or hang it on the wall.

4

...CHRISTMAS WREATHS



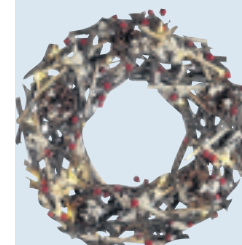
RED ALERT
Red berry wreath, £14.99, Sainsbury's



NATURAL LOOK
Lit green wreath, £35, Next Home



TAKE THE BISCUIT
Dog biscuit wreath, £18, TheGreatGiftCompany.co.uk



RUSTIC LOOK
Rattan lit wreath, £20, Homebase





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New
Instruction

LITTLE CATTINS

£300,000

- Four Bedroom Family Home
- Lounge Diner
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- End of Terrace
- Garage to Rear
- Allocated Parking Space
- Outskirts of Harlow



COALPORT CLOSE

£275,000

- Two Bedroom Home
- Church Langley Location
- Allocated Parking Space
- Stamp Duty Free for First Time Buyers
- Lounge Diner 143 x 131
- Fitted Kitchen 6'11 x 9'8
- Bedroom One 11'2 x 13'0
- Bedroom Two 6'4 x 12'10
- Modern Bathroom
- Viewing Recommended



PEACOCKS

Offers over £278,950

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- End of Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Garage En Bloc
- No Onward Chain



MOORFIELD

£155,000

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Large Kitchen & Lounge Diner
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- No Onward Chain
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Outskirts of Harlow
- Walking Distance to Shops



New
Price

RUNDELLS

£240,000

- Two Bedroom Home
- End of Terrace
- Double Bedrooms
- Large Lounge Diner
- Good Size Kitchen
- Neatly Presented Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain



MOORFIELD

£175,000

- Neatly Presented Two Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Balcony
- Close to Staple Tye Shopping Centre



LITTLE BRAYS

£250,000

- Two Bedroom Home
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Close to All Amenities
- Viewing Recommended



FOLDCROFT

Offers in excess of £195,995

- Two Bedroom Maisonette
- Close to Train Station & Hospital
- Close to Harlow Town Centre
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom
- Offered with No Onward Chain
- Viewings strongly recommended



CARTERSMEAD

Offers Over £265,000

- Extended Two Bedroom Family Home
- Well Presented Throughout
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Family Shower Room
- Gas Radiator Central Heating
- Double Glazed Windows
- Potter Street Location



PRIORY COURT

£290,000

- Three Bedroom Town House
- Own Drive
- Close to Schools & Amenities
- Set Over Three Floors
- Double Glazed
- Good Size Garden
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge & Dining Area



PEAR TREE MEAD

OIEO £315,000

- Immaculately Presented
- Prime Location
- Extended
- Three Bedrooms
- Close to Schools
- Close to Bush Fair
- Kitchen Diner
- Solar Panels
- Viewing Recommended



New
Price

OLD HARLOW

Asking price £700,000

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Kitchen & Dining Area
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Downstairs Bedroom & en-suite
- Lounge
- Double Glazing
- Double Garaging
- Underfloor heating



THE FORTUNES

£323,000

- Four Bedroom Family Home
- Corner Plot
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room & Downstairs Cloakroom
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Viewing Recommended



FOLDCROFT

£399,950

- Three/Four Bedroom Family Home
- Detached
- Five Car Driveway
- Converted Garage Providing Bedroom 4/ Further Recep
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms Upstairs
- Gas Central & Double Glazing



ONGAR

£575,000

- Three Bedroom Bungalow
- High Specification Throughout
- Dressing Room
- Family Bathroom
- Two Further Dorma Rooms



New
Instruction

FELMONGERS

Offers in excess of £350,000

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Scope To Improve
- Garage
- Off Street Parking
- Close To Amenities
- Close To Transport Links
- Popular Location
- Viewings Recommended



NEWMANS END £2,500 PCM

- 5 Bedrooms
- Must Be Viewed
- Stunning property
- En-suite to Master Bedroom
- Semi Rural Location
- Kitchen/dining room
- Wonderful Views
- Garage & Driveway
- Admin Fees Apply
- EPC Rating D
- Available Now



KINGSLAND £1,100 PCM

- Three Bedroom House
- Modern Property
- Must Be Viewed
- Stunning Family Home
- Large Bedrooms
- White Goods Only
- Local Schools
- * Admin Fees Apply
- EPC Rating D
- Available Now



PEACOCKS £1,100 PCM

- Three Bed House
- Modern Property
- EPC Rating D
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Unfurnished
- Oven Only
- Available Now



TUNNMEADE £1,050 PCM

- Three Bedroom House
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating D
- No Pets
- No DSS
- Kitchen/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Oven Only
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now



RIVERSIDE COURT £995 PCM

- Two Bed Apartment
- Unfurnished
- Kitchen Appliances Only
- * Admin Fees Apply
- EPC Rating C
- Gated & Intercom Entry
- Balcony Over The River
- Walking Distance To Train Station
- Available Now



TYE GREEN £775 PCM

- One Bedroom Bungalow
- Oven Only
- Shower Only (No Bath)
- Garden
- EPC Rating D
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Mid December



REGENCY COURT £700 PCM

- One Bed Flat
- Allocated Parking
- Available Mid Jan
- White Goods
- EPC Rating C
- Council Tax Band B
- Admin Fees Apply



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- The Modern Method Of Auction
- Undisclosed Reserve Price



CHAIN FREE

£225,000
CHURCHGATE STREET, OLD HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Modern Interior
- Period Conversion
- Ground floor Apartment
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

£225,000
CHURCHGATE STREET, OLD HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Walk In Wardrobe
- Period Conversion
- First Floor Apartment
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

£259,995
SPRUCE HILL, HARLOW

- Four Bedrooms
- Kitchen / Diner
- Needs Modernisation
- Mid Terrace
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

£269,995
HOLLYFIELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Mid Terrace
- Modern Interior
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

£274,995
ABBOTSWELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Large Kitchen
- Chain Free
- End Of Terrace
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D



EXTENDED

OIEO £284,995
CHURCH LEYS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Extended To Rear
- Study Area
- Mid Terrace
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- EPC Rating: C



NEW ON

£284,995
PEACOCKS, HARLOW

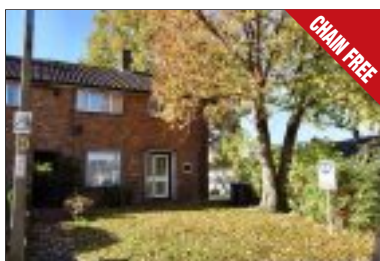
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- End Of Terrace
- Southern Side Of Town
- EPC Rating: D



NEW ON

£285,000
HOLLAND WAY, NEWHALL

- Two Bedrooms
- Detached
- Two Allocated Parking
- Two Bathrooms
- Three Story
- Chain Free



CHAIN FREE

OIRO £295,000
MARK HALL MOORS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Excellent Project
- Conservation Area
- End Of Terrace
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: E



NEW ON

£299,995
LITTLE BRAYS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Single Garage
- Conservatory
- End Of Terrace
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: TBC



NEW ON

£300,000
LITTLE CATTINS, HARLOW

- Four Bedrooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- Large Lounge
- End Of Terrace
- Garage & Parking
- EPC Rating: C



NO WORK

OIEO £330,000
EAST PARK, OLD HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Views Over Fields
- Modern Throughout
- Mid Terrace
- EPC Rating: TBC



NEW PRICE

£330,000
CHALLINOR, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Three Bedroom
- End Terrace
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Garage & Off Street Parking
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating: E



CHAIN FREE

£350,000
LATTON GREEN, HARLOW

- Four Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Updating Required
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: TBC



NEW ON

£350,000
PERRY LANE, NEWHALL

- Two Bedrooms
- Terraced
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Bathrooms
- Garage & Carport
- EPC Rating: C

sales@hbproperty.co.uk

01279 418888

info@hbproperty.co.uk

Howick & Brooker

Gothic House, Station Road, Old Harlow, CM17 0AP

H&B



£369,995

CANOPY LANE, NEWHALL

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- One Owner Since New
- Downstairs W/C
- Parking For Two Cars
- EPC Rating: TBC



£379,950

TATTON STREET, NEWHALL

- Four Bedrooms
- Linked End Terrace
- Open Plan Living
- Two Bathrooms
- Off Street Parking
- EPC Rating: C



OIEO £390,000

MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Four/Five Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Quiet Location
- Two Bathrooms
- Converted Garage
- EPC Rating: TBC



£395,000

ALLENS GREEN, SAWBRIDGEWORTH

- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan
- Off Street Parking
- Mid Terrace
- Mains Services
- EPC Rating: D



£399,995

CANOPY LANE, NEWHALL

- Four Bedrooms
- Detached
- Car Port & Driveway
- Two Bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- EPC Rating: C



£400,000

FLINT LANE, NEWHALL

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Under Floor Heating
- Sun Terrace
- Parking
- EPC Rating: TBC



£410,000

MULBERRY GREEN HOUSE, OLD HARLOW

- End Of Terrace
- Allocated Parking
- Walking To Shops
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating: C



GUIDE PRICE: £435,000 - £455,000

CHURCHGATE STREET, OLD HARLOW

- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Large Kitchen/Diner
- Planning Granted
- Semi Detached
- Sought After Location
- EPC Rating: TBC



£450,000

BRAGGOWENS LEY, NEWHALL

- Four Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- Immaculate Throughout
- Semi Detached
- Two Bathrooms
- EPC Rating: C



£465,000

PENNYMEAD, HARLOW

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Driveway Parking
- Extended End Terrace
- Dressing & Storage Room
- EPC Rating: TBC



£475,000

CANNONS LANE, HATFIELD BROAD OAK

- Three Bedrooms
- Village Location
- Views Over Fields
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Receptions
- EPC Rating: TBC



£495,000

PARKSIDE, MITCHING TYE

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Upgraded Throughout
- Double Car Port
- EPC Rating: D



£650,000

THE BARN, OLD HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Semi Detached
- Walk To Station
- Courtyard Setting
- EPC Rating: E



£800,000

MULBERRY GARDENS, OLD HARLOW

- Five Bedrooms
- Detached House
- Three Bathrooms
- West Facing Garden
- Garage & Parking
- EPC Rating: B



£945,000

LATTON COMMON, HARLOW

- Five Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Private Location
- Gated Entrance
- Detached
- EPC Rating: C



£1,250,000

HOGGS FARM, MATCHING TYE

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Detached
- Grade II Listed
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: TBC

sales@hbproperty.co.uk

01279 418888

info@hbproperty.co.uk



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The path to a successful



UNIT 4, CHURCH LANGLEY WAY, CHURCH LANGLEY

01279-410084



CHAIN FREE

Coalport Close

- A Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- CHAIN FREE
- Allocated Parking
- Lounge/Diner
- Security Telephone Entry System
- E.P.C Rating: D

£225,000



CHAIN FREE

Milestone Road

- A Two Double Bedroom Second Floor Flat
- CHAIN FREE
- Open Plan Kitchen / Diner / Lounge
- Allocated Parking
- Situated In The Award Winning Newhall Development
- E.P.C Rating: C

£235,000



CHAIN FREE

Abbeydale

- Two DOUBLE Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Situated At The End Of A Residential Cul-De-Sac
- CHAIN FREE
- Off Street Parking For Two Vehicle
- Conservatory To Rear
- E.P.C Rating: D

£285,000



SOLD

MORE REQUIRED

Davenport

- A Two Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- CHAIN FREE
- Single Garage & Off Street Parking For One Vehicle
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Within Catchment Area Of Henry Moore Primary School
- E.P.C Rating: D

£299,950



NEW PRICE

CHAIN FREE

Doulton Close

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- Situated In Cul-De-Sac Location
- En-suite To Master Bedroom
- Garage
- Driveway For One Vehicle
- E.P.C Rating: C

£320,000



MUST BE SEEN!

Old London Road

- A Substantial Four Bedroom Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-suite To The Master Bedroom
- Driveway For Multiple Vehicles
- Separate Lounge & Dining Room
- E.P.C Rating: Awaiting

£495,000



CHAIN FREE

Seymour Chase, Epping

- Three Double Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Situated In The Kingwood Park Estate, Epping
- Two En-Suites & A Family Bathroom
- Car Port
- Chain Free
- E.P.C Rating: C

O.I.E.O - £575,000



SOLD

MORE REQUIRED

Whieldon Grange

- A Substantial Six Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Decorated To A High Standard Throughout
- Fitted Kitchen Complete With Granite Composite Worktops
- Driveway For Multiple Vehicles
- Secluded Rear Garden With Decked Area
- E.P.C Rating: C

O.I.R.O - £590,000



NEWHALL LOCATION

Bunting Street, Newhall

- A Two Bedroom Linked- Detached House
- Open Plan Living/ Diner and Kitchen
- Garage & Private Driveway For One Car
- Downstairs WC
- Secluded Garden
- E.P.C Rating: B

£360,000



Malkin Drive

- A Four Bedroom Linked Detached House
- Kitchen/ Diner With Doors To The Rear
- Garage With Power & Lighting
- Driveway For Multiple Cars
- Downstairs W/C
- E.P.C Rating: C

£435,000



VIEWING ADVISED!

al move this Autumn...



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19 EASTGATE, HARLOW
01279-433033



PUBLIC NOTICE




CHAIN FREE

Gladwin Way

- Public Notice 66 Gladwin Way, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1AS
- We are acting in the sale of the above property
- and have received an offer of £170,000
- Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before
- an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating: B

Offers Over - £170,000

PUBLIC NOTICE




Hull Grove

- Public Notice: 103 Hull Grove, CM19 5BR
- We Advise That An Offer Has Been Made
- Property In The Sum Of £236,000.
- Anyone Wishing To Increase On This Offer Should
- Notify The Agents Of Their Best Offer Prior To Exchange
- Of Contracts. Kings Harlow Town- 01279 433033

O.I.R.O - £245,950

VIEWING ADVISED!




Little Grove Field

- Two Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge
- Close Proximity To All Local Amenities
- EPC Rating: D

O.I.E.O - £260,000

MUST BE SEEN!

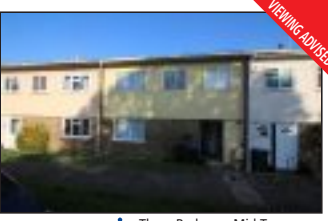


Peterswood

- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House
- Garage To The Front
- Driveway For One Vehicle
- Fitted Kitchen To Front Aspect
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- EPC Rating D

O.I.R.O - £278,995

VIEWING ADVISED




Tanys Dell

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Perfect Home Or Investment
- Approx. 50ft Rear Gardens
- Awaiting EPC Rating

O.I.R.O - £285,000

VIEWING ADVISED!




Ladysnot

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Approximately 40ft Rear Garden With Rear Access
- Lift From Dining Area To Bedroom Three
- EPC Rating: Awaiting

O.I.E.O - £290,000

CHAIN FREE




Pegrams Court

- Three Bedroom House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Chain Free
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Perfect Home Or Investment
- EPC Rating C

O.I.R.O - £290,000

VIEWING ADVISED!



Pittmans Field

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- Cul De Sac Location
- Easy Reach Of Schools & Local Amenities
- Fitted Kitchen
- Landscaped Garden To Rear Aspect
- EPC Rating: Awaiting

O.I.R.O - £290,000

CHAIN FREE




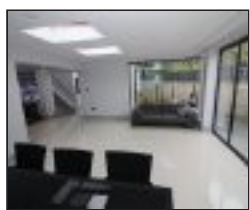



Rye Croft

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Chain Free
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- An Ideal First Time Buy Or Investment Opportunity
- Approx. 50ft Rear Garden
- EPC Rating:D

O.I.E.O - £270,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Old Orchard

- Five Bedroom Detached House
- Front Drive For Several Cars
- Through Lounge/ Dining Area
- Ground Floor Cloakroom
- Decorated To A High Standard In Our Opinion
- EPC Awaiting

£565,000



www.kings-group.net

WHY INSTRUCT
ANYONE ELSE?

AFFORDABLE LETTING FEES LANDLORDS WANTED TENANTS WAITING



19 Eastgate, Harlow
01279-450400

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House, CM20

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£625

Bentley Drive, Church Langley

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Newly Decorated Throughout
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£850

Elm Court, Commons Road

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Close To Local Amenities
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£950

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House, CM20

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£675

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£650

**WINNERS OF A RECORD
13 ESTAS AT THE 2016
ESTATE & LETTING
AGENT AWARDS...**

**IN THE BIGGEST CONSUMER SURVEY OF ITS KIND IN THE PROPERTY
INDUSTRY, THE PRESTIGIOUS ESTATE AND LETTINGS AGENTS
AWARDS 2016, AS VOTED FOR BY THE GREAT BRITISH PUBLIC,
WE CAME OUT ON TOP...AGAIN! INCLUDING BEST OFFICE IN THE UK!!**

COMPETITIVE AGENCY FEES

RENTAL GUARANTEE*

FREE INVENTORY*

**DEDICATED PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

*Terms and conditions apply.

Dunstalls

- Three Bedroom House
- 2 Great sized double bedrooms
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,150

Feasants Croft

- 3 Bedroom House
- Fully Furnished
- EPC Rating - D
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,200

Doulton Close, Church Langley

- Three Bedroom House
- Master to Ensuite
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,300

LET BY

Gladwin Way

- 1 Bedroom Flat
- Minutes from Harlow Train Station
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£850

LET BY

Vince Dunn Mews

- Two Bedroom House
- Double Bedrooms
- EPC Rating - B
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,125

Fees - Please see in branch for details.

CENTURION

SALES: 01279 417234

LETTINGS: 01279 400444



HERONS WOOD, HARLOW

£490,000

- FOUR BED DETACHED
- LARGE EXTENSIONS
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- CLOAK ROOM
- LARGE PLOT
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



GREAT PLUMTREE, HARLOW

£271,950

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES
- RECENTLY RE-DECORATED
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



HOLLYFIELD, HARLOW

£275,950

- THREE BED TERRACED HOUSE
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- WHITE BATHROOM SUITE
- POTENTIAL OFF ROAD PARKING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



ST ANDREWS MEADOW, HARLOW

£269,000

- TWO BED END TERRACE
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- PRIVATE LOCATION
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



CHURCH LEYS, HARLOW

£275,000

- TWO BED TERRACE
- GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- SOUTH FACING GARDEN
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- WHITE BATHROOM SUITE
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



SPRING HILLS, HARLOW

£215,000

- TWO BED MAISONETTE
- LARGE GARDEN
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



CENTURION PROPERTY | EQUITY HOUSE
4-6 MARKET STREET | OLD HARLOW | ESSEX | CM170AH

www.centurionproperty.co.uk





...A Selection Of Homes From Our Extensive Portfolio...



NEW

Woodleys, Harlow

£154,995

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- Chain Free
- Ground Floor
- Apartment
- Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: D



NEW

The Chase, Harlow

£192,500

- One Bedroom
- Decked Courtyard
- Open Plan
- Chain Free
- Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Allocated Parking
- EPC Rating: TBC



The Downs, Harlow

£274,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Utility Room
- Chain Free
- Terraced Home
- Close To Town Centre
- Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: TBC



WILLOWFIELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Lounge/Diner
- Chain Free
- End Terrace Bungalow
- Southerly Garden
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: C

£299,995



MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Cloakroom/W.C
- Garage To Rear
- Terraced Home
- Croutace Build
- Southerly Gardens
- EPC Rating: C

£294,995



PEACOCKS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception
- Modern Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- End Of Terrace
- Popular Location
- Close To Amenities
- EPC Rating: D

£284,995



MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom W.C
- CHAIN FREE
- Terraced House
- En-Suite Shower
- Parking To Rear
- EPC Rating: C

£284,995



UPPER MEALLINES, HARLOW

- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Ground Floor WC
- Chain Free
- End Of Terrace
- Extended Property
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£274,995



TAYLIFERS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Chain Free
- End Of Terrace
- Outskirts Of Town
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£269,995



LONG LEY, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- CHAIN FREE
- Terraced Home
- Modern Kitchen
- Private Garden
- EPC Rating: E

£264,995



FENNELLS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Chain Free
- Terraced House
- Popular Location
- Outskirts Of Town
- EPC Rating: TBC

£264,995



WILLOWFIELD, HARLOW

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Large Garden
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Middle Terrace
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: TBC

£254,995



ABBOTSWELD, HARLOW

- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- Chain Free
- End Terrace
- Westerly Garden
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£249,995



LITTLE CATTINS, HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Juliette Balcony
- Apartment
- Top Floor (2nd)
- CHAIN FREE
- EPC Rating: C

£164,995



CHURCH END, HARLOW

- Studio
- First Floor
- Fitted Kitchen
- Chain Free
- Apartment
- Popular Location
- Large Store Room
- EPC Rating: D

£119,995

t: 01279 216216

e: info@rjestateagents.co.uk



...A Selection Of Homes From Our Extensive Portfolio...



NEW PRICE

Little Cattins, Harlow**£300,000**

- Four Bedrooms
- Lounge/diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Modern Kitchen
- End Of Terrace
- Garage To Rear
- Allocated Parking
- EPC Rating: D



NEW

East Park, Old Harlow**£330,000**

- Three Bedrooms
- Immaculate Throughout
- Large Conservatory
- Desirable Location
- Middle Terrace
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Overlooking Green
- EPC Rating: D

**Malkin Drive, Church Langley****£380,000**

- Four Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Immaculate Home
- Garage & Drive
- Linked House
- Ground Floor W.C
- Landscaped Garden
- EPC Rating: C

**PRIORY AVENUE, OLD HARLOW**

- Four/Five Double Bedrooms
- Three/Four Receptions
- Carriage Driveway
- Three Ensuites
- Detached Family Home
- Large Outbuilding
- Well Presented
- EPC Rating: TBC

£799,995**GREENFINCH WAY, NEWHALL**

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Garage & Driveway
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Balcony To Master
- NHBC Warranty
- EPC Rating: B

£459,995**ALBERT GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY**

- Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Well Presented
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating: TBC

£449,995**DAVENPORT, CHURCH LANGLEY**

- Three Bedrooms
- Two/Three Receptions
- Driveway
- Dressing Room
- Family Home
- Well Presented
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: C

£399,995**MOSS LANE, NEWHALL**

- Three Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Sun Terrace
- Driveway
- Link Detached
- Two Receptions
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: B

£399,995**CORNER MEADOW, HARLOW**

- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Private Development
- Chain Free
- Detached
- Well Presented
- Three/Four Receptions
- EPC Rating: D

£399,995**CHALLINOR, CHURCH LANGLEY**

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Private Rear Garden
- Garage & Drive
- Detached House
- Immaculate Home
- En-Suite & WC
- EPC Rating: D

£384,995**CHALLINOR, CHURCH LANGLEY**

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Cloakroom/WC
- Garage & Driveway
- Link Detached
- En-Suite Shower
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£374,995**PYENEST ROAD, HARLOW**

- Three bedrooms
- Driveway
- Un-Overlooked Garden
- Popular Location
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: TBC

£369,995**LATTON GREEN, HARLOW**

- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Two Receptions
- Chain Free
- Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Potential To Extend (STPP)
- EPC Rating: TBC

£339,995**PRIORY COURT, HARLOW**

- Four Bedrooms
- Recently Redecorated
- Driveway
- Overlooking Latton Common
- Town House
- En-suite To Master
- Private Close
- EPC Rating: TBC

£339,995**GLAN AVON MEWS, HARLOW**

- Three Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Modern Kitchen/Diner
- Well Presented
- End Terrace Home
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: TBC

£304,995

t: 01279 216216

e: info@rjestateagents.co.uk



Reyland Johnson are committed to supporting local charities and this Christmas we will be working with Harlow Foodbank.



Since 2009 they have registered and fed an astonishing 22,428 people! Designed to help individuals and families in crisis by providing free emergency food, Harlow foodbank rely on 4.5 tonne of donated food every month as well as running costs for storage & delivery.

OUR GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS IS A SPECTACULAR RAFFLE!!

JUST £2 A TICKET!

1st Prize -
Playstation 4 Slim
& FIFA 18



2nd Prize -
42 inch LED TV, freeview HD



3rd Prize -
Virginia Hayward,
Luxury Christmas Hamper



Tickets can be purchased from our office at Bush fair where we are also taking food donations, please pay us a visit.

The winning tickets will be drawn on 15th December, Live on our Facebook page.

t: 01279 216216

e: info@rjestateagents.co.uk



...A Selection Of Homes To Let From Our Portfolio...



TO LET

NEW

Aylets Field, Harlow

£895 P.C.M

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Top Floor
- Available Beg Dec 17
- Apartment
- Recently Decorated
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: D



TO LET

East Park, Old Harlow

£995 P.C.M

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Available NOW
- Fantastic Location
- Middle Terrace House
- Unfurnished
- Lounge/Diner
- EPC Rating: TBC



TO LET

NEW

Maypole Street, Newhall

£1,050 P.C.M

- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan
- Balcony
- Available November
- First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: C



TO LET

SHARPECROFT, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Available NOW
- Town Centre Location
- Middle Terrace House
- Unfurnished
- Immaculate Throughout
- EPC Rating: TBC

£1,250 P.C.M



LET BY

STACKFIELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Completely Refurb'd
- Available NOW
- End Of Terrace
- Unfurnished
- Long Gardens
- EPC Rating: C

£1,295 P.C.M



LET BY

BROOMFIELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Close To Station
- Available Now
- Mid Terraced
- Unfurnished
- Desirable Location
- EPC Rating: C

£1,200 P.C.M



TO LET

NEW

KINGSLAND, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Unfurnished
- South Facing Garden
- Middle Terrace
- Available End December
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC Rating: C

£1,200 P.C.M



LET BY

TILBURY MEAD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Available Late Jan
- Modern Kitchen
- Terraced House
- Close To Schools
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: E

£1,150 P.C.M



LET BY

BENTLEY DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Two Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Unfurnished
- Recently Re-Decorated
- Ground Floor Flat
- Available NOW
- Allocated Parking
- EPC Rating: C

£895 P.C.M



LET BY

ACORN MEWS, HARLOW

- Two Bedrooms
- Balcony
- Unfurnished
- Close To Shops
- Split Level Flat
- White Goods Available
- Available NOW
- EPC Rating: D

£850 P.C.M



LET BY

CHURCH LEYS, HARLOW

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Available Now
- Communal Garden
- Lounge/Diner
- First Floor Flat
- Unfurnished
- Popular Location
- EPC: TBC

£850 P.C.M

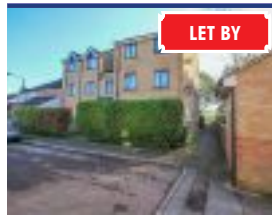


TO LET

NETTESWELL TOWER, HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Close To Town
- Available NOW
- Second Floor Flat
- Unfurnished
- Recently Redecorated
- EPC Rating: D

£725 P.C.M



LET BY

MARKWELL WOOD, HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Popular Location
- AVAILABLE NOW
- Allocated Parking
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Unfurnished
- Lounge/Diner
- EPC Rating: TBC

£725 P.C.M



TO LET

NEW

BUSHEY CROFT, HARLOW

- First Floor
- Studio Apartment
- Available Beg December 17
- Popular Location
- Close To Amenities
- Unfurnished
- Sorry NO DSS
- EPC Rating: C

£650 P.C.M



TO LET

HORNBEAMS, HARLOW

- Studio Flat
- Own Balcony
- Close To Train Station
- Unfurnished
- Top Floor
- White Goods Available
- Available Now
- EPC Rating: C

£625 P.C.M

t: 01279 216216

e: info@rjestateagents.co.uk

Wright & Co

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£149,950 HARLOW (Florence Close). One bedroom ground floor flat offered with immediate vacant possession and no onward chain. Great investment opportunity. Good length lease and low service charges. Gas fired heating and double glazing throughout. Off road parking. Must be viewed. Sole agents.



£265,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Brook Road). 1 bedroom detached bungalow with a landscaped rear garden and offered with no onward chain. Large sitting/dining room, modern kitchen, bathroom, double bedroom. 10 mins walk to village centre. Rarely available. Sole agents.



£175,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Priors Court). 1 bedroom first floor apartment in a Grade II listed Maltings building with an extended lease and close to train station. Living room, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Excellent investment opportunity. No onward chain. Sole agents.



£275,000 BISHOPS STORTFORD (Bells Hill). Stamp Duty exempt for first time purchaser. 3 bedroom recently redecorated cottage in a convenient location, handy for town, station and schools. Courtyard garden and permit parking. No onward chain. Keys available for viewing. Sole agents.



£325,000 LITTLE CANFIELD (Warwick Road). 3 bedroom semi-detached home benefitting from a large open plan kitchen/living/dining area, contemporary en-suite to master bedroom, good size rear garden, detached single garage. No onward chain. Sole agents.



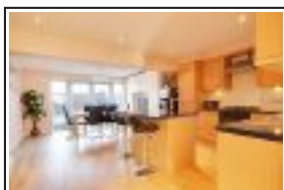
£475,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Church Crescent). Totally renovated and improved 3 bedroom detached property with just a 5 mins walk to train station. Close to town centre. Contemporary finish with a large open plan living room, kitchen, south facing garden, excellent parking. Sole agents.



£329,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Orchard Lea). 2 bedroom bungalow with a single garage plus driveway giving parking for 2 cars. Offered with no onward chain set in a retirement village for the over 55's. Rarely available. Call now for brochure. Sole agents.



£499,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Cambridge Road). 4 bedroom semi-detached home constructed to a high specification, driveway and parking for 2-3 cars. High quality kitchen/dining room, impressive sitting room, separate utility room, playroom/study, downstairs cloakroom, 4 bedrooms, en-suite to master bedroom plus high quality main bathroom. Underfloor heating. Short walk to village centre and 15 mins walk to train station. Ideally positioned for schools.



£359,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Burnside). Extended 3 bedroom home which is beautifully presented with a huge impressive kitchen/family room, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, modern bathroom, landscaped rear garden and en-bloc garage. 10 mins walk to village centre and ideally positioned for schools. Sole agents.



PRICE GUIDE £500,000 WOODSIDE GREEN. 3-4 bedroom cottage, close to the National Trust Woodside Green. In need of some improvement. Fabulous grounds and garaging. 5 mins drive from Bishops Stortford train station. Close to excellent schooling. Available immediately. Phone now for brochure. Sole agents.



£522,950 HIGH WYCH (Wisemans Gardens). Extended 4 bedroom family home with a huge sitting room, impressive kitchen/family/dining room, cinema room, study, downstairs shower room, main family bathroom plus en-suite, driveway and parking for 3 cars, landscaped garden. Sole Agents.



£538,950 BISHOPS STORTFORD (Chartwell Place). READY TO MOVE IN TO 3 double bedroom, 2 bathroom luxury home in a gated development with a kitchen/dining room, utility, large sitting room, enclosed rear garden, driveway and carport. Walking distance from station and town centre. Vacant possession and no onward chain.



£549,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Saffron Crescent). 4 bedroom detached modern home overlooking the River Stort. Ideally positioned for schools and just a short walk to the village centre. 3 reception rooms, impressive kitchen/dining room, en-suite shower room plus main bathroom, west facing garden, garage and parking for 3 cars. 15 mins walk to station. Sole agents.



£825,000 HATFIELD HEATH (Friars Lane). Spacious 4 bedroom detached chalet home in an idyllic location, yet walking distance to this thriving village centre. Large sitting room, separate family room, large kitchen, dining room, 2 luxury bathrooms, en-suite, modern contemporary finishes, large double garage and beautiful views. Sole agents.



PRICE GUIDE £660,000 BISHOP'S STORTFORD (Ashby Rise). Beautifully presented 4 double bedroom detached family home with a double garage and a good size garden. Private cul-de-sac location. Beautifully presented with a magnificent kitchen/open plan family room, spacious sitting room, luxurious bathroom and en-suite. Sole agents.



£785,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Forebury). Positioned in a highly sought after location which is fantastic for local schooling and commuting to London. Newly constructed 4 double bedroom detached family home with a kitchen, dining room, large living room, study/office, downstairs w.c., en-suite to master bedroom and lots of parking. Sole agents.



£1,275,000 GREAT DUNMOW. Spacious 5,000 sq ft barn conversion in 2.8 acres. Gated entrance, drive, tennis court, pavilion, magnificent open plan living area, bespoke kitchen, separate sitting room and study, 3 en-suite bedrooms, luxury bathroom, independent 1 bedroom annexe with kitchen and bathroom, fantastic parking. Early viewing essential. Owners ready to proceed. Sole agents.

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Residential Lettings

"The Old Post Office" 4-6 Church Street, Sawbridgeworth, Herts



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£1395pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (East Road). Immaculately presented, 3 bedroom home close to all local amenities including mainline station. Currently undergoing full renovation enjoying a bright living room, stunning open plan kitchen and dining area, brand new bathroom and three bedrooms. Good size rear garden and permit parking on the road. Available now.



£750pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Waterside Place). Unfurnished one bed apartment situated in this ever popular Grade II listed building, just a 30 second walk from the mainline station. Entrance hall, bedroom with built-in wardrobe, updated bathroom, fitted kitchen and sitting room. Views over the communal gardens and parking. Available Mid January.



£750pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Meadows). 1 bedroom ground floor apartment, immaculately presented, situated within walking distance of station and amenities. Bright lounge with French doors overlooking communal gardens, open plan kitchen with appliances, bedroom with fitted wardrobes, and bathroom. Off road parking. Available mid December.



£1995pcm HIGH EASTER (The Street). Beautiful 4 bedroom period cottage, plus 1 bedroom detached annexe, in a popular village only a short drive from amenities. Entrance hall, sitting room, dining room/study, fitted kitchen, orangery, four bedrooms with en-suite shower to master, family bathroom. Set in 1.2 acres. Off road parking and single garage. Available January.



£925pcm HATFIELD BROAD OAK (Cage End). 2 bedroom mid-terrace unfurnished cottage in a popular location, only a short walk from facilities and a short drive to station. Open plan living/dining area, kitchen with breakfast bar, two bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. There is a garden to rear plus parking. Available immediately.



£950pcm (RIVERSIDE COURT) OLD HARLOW. A two bedroom ground floor unfurnished apartment with river views, just a short walk to mainline station. The property comprises two bedrooms, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, allocated parking and visitors parking. Available immediately.



£1095pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (Cannons Close). 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet location just a short distance from all local amenities. Fitted bathroom and kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms and a bright lounge overlooking the rear garden. Garden and driveway parking for one car as well as casual parking on the street. Available Early January.



£1095pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Bickerton Court). Recently constructed 2 bed 2 bath luxury apartment with high quality fittings. Short walk from station. Comprising 2 bedrooms with en suite to master and further bathroom, fitted kitchen and living room with dining area and balcony. Allocated Parking. Unfurnished. Available Now.



£1395pcm LITTLE HALLINGBURY (Sawbridgeworth Road). 3 bedroom, detached cottage set in 1/4 of an acre. Currently undergoing renovation, comprising entrance hall, good size lounge, newly fitted kitchen & utility room, 3 bedrooms providing fine views and a brand new bathroom. Detached garage, plenty of driveway parking and open garden. Available December.



£2500pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (Cannons Mill Lane). An exceptional house in a unique position, which enjoys beautiful secluded gardens with the River Stort navigation running alongside, within walking distance of Bishops Stortford town center. This 5 bedroom detached property sits in a 1/3 acre plot with ample driveway parking. Available now.



£1395pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Crest). A three bedroom extremely well presented family home only a short walk from the mainline station and town centre. The property comprises three bedrooms to first floor plus shower room, with a sitting room opening through to kitchen/diner to ground floor, garden to rear and casual parking to front. Unfurnished and available immediately.



£1495pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Bickerton Court). 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1200 sqft duplex apartment in a recently constructed development only a short walk to the station. Comprising huge lounge/dining room with balcony, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Parking to front, gas fired central heating and available December.



£2995pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Drive). We are delighted to be able to offer this six bedroom family home situated in a prestigious location and offering excellent accommodation. The property is only a short walk from the town centre and mainline station and comprises six bedrooms, garden to rear and off road parking to front. Available mid December.



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residential sales



Cash Buyers Only

EPC: E
Guardian are delighted to offer this immaculate two bedroom top floor flat. Cash buyers only as it is over the 10th floor. Market rent £850pcm. Close to local amenities and schools.

£139,999

Willowfield, Harlow



EPC: C
Fantastic for both first time buyers and investors alike, Guardian are proud to be offering this one bedroom flat in the very sought area of Dadswood, situated in the town centre.

£160,000

Dadswood, Harlow



New Instruction

EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom ground floor flat which is ideally located in the centre of Sawbridgeworth town. The flat benefits from having an open plan kitchen/living area, good size double bedroom, luxury bath/shower room.

£175,000

Kings Mews, Sawbridgeworth



Top Floor

EPC: C
O.I.E.O - Guardian Sales are delighted to offer you this one bedroom top floor flat in the area of Church Langley.

£184,995

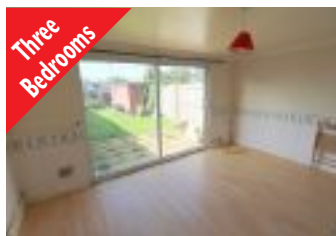
Wedgewood Drive, Harlow



EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to present this one bedroom ground floor flat in the much sought after private area of Church Langley. Close to amenities.

£185,000

Aynsley Gardens, Church Langley



Three Bedrooms

EPC: E
No-Onward Chain - A fantastic opportunity for both first time buyers and investors. Guardian are excited to be offering this large 3 bedroom house in the area of Cannons Brook.

£220,000

Cannons Brook, Harlow



EPC: D
Guardian sales take great pleasure in offering this fine example of a ground floor two bedroom flat in the private development of Bromley Close, Harlow.

£225,000

Bromley Close, Harlow



EPC: C
O.I.E.O - Guardian are delighted to offer this well presented top floor 2 bedroom flat with balcony and allocated parking. Situated in the ever popular Fifth Avenue development.

£234,995

Torkildsen Way, Harlow



New Instruction

EPC: C
Ideally located for easy access to the M11 junction, two bedroom terraced property in the popular Potter Street area of Harlow. The property boasts two large double bedrooms, a modern fitted galley kitchen and large through lounge.

£249,995

Pottersfield, Harlow



EPC: F
Guardian are delighted to offer this well presented three bedroom terrace house in the Staple Tye area of Harlow. Gas central heating and double glazed through out. Roof recently replaced.

£249,995

Barely Croft, Harlow



EPC: E
Guardian are delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom terraced family home. This property has lots of scope for the future.

£265,000

Nicholls Field, Harlow



Private Area

EPC: C
Guardian are delighted to offer a rarely available two bedroom mid terrace house in a quiet, cul-de-sac location in sought-after Archers.

£270,000

Archers, Harlow



EPC: E
NO ONWARD CHAIN, Guardian are delighted to offer this well presented two bedroom mid terrace house with downstairs WC and allocated off street parking with 2 car spaces.

£279,999

Westbury Rise, Church Langley



Town house

EPC: E
Coming to the market with Guardian is this well maintained 4 bedroom town house located near to the town centre as well as shops and schools.

£299,999

Pittmans Field, Harlow



EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to acquire this three bedroom detached family oriented property in the sought after, private area, of Albert Gardens, Church Langley.

£340,000

Albert Gardens, Church Langley



EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to present an exciting opportunity to purchase a wonderful three bedroom semi detached house in the highly sought after area of Fir Park. Immaculately presented.

£375,000

Fir Park, Harlow

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GUARDIAN residential lettings



Guardian are delighted to present this large one bedroom top floor flat in Wissants. This property benefits from gas heating, allocated parking and is close to local shops and amenities. Available early March. EPC - D.

£685 PCM

Wissants



Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom, first floor flat in Brockles Mead. This property benefits from gas heating, a balcony and is close to local shops and amenities. Available NOW! EPC - D

£700 PCM

Brockles Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom first floor flat that is situated in close proximity to the shops and amenities of bush fair. The property is in excellent order and in internal viewing is advised. EPC - C.

£750 PCM

Regency Court



Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom ground floor flat in the desirable church Langley area. The property is offered part furnished and available early March. EPD - D

£760 PCM

Aynsley Gardens



Clean and tidy two bedroom flat with open plan kitchen and lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom, storage cupboard and balcony. Popular area. EPC - C

£800 PCM

Moorfield



Guardian are delighted to offer this immaculate one bedroom annex in the sought after area of Ducketts Mead, Roydon in a quite cul-de-sac overlooking the river. This property benefits from gas heating, allocated parking, a small garden and modern fittings throughout. This property is close to the train station and other local amenities. EPC - D

£800 PCM

Ducketts Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer for rent this lovely two bedroom maisonette close to the Staple Tye area of Harlow. This first/top floor property is offered with oven, fridge freezer and washing machine. Gas heating, double glazed windows, two large bedrooms and wooden floors. EPC C.

£845 PCM

Five Acres



Guardian are delighted to offer this two double bedroom flat with a balcony and allocated storage, located in Lutton Common. Part furnished with white goods. Gas Heating. EPC rating C.

£885 PCM

Priory Court



Immaculate two bedroom first floor flat located just off Potter Street. Modern and stylish interior with laminate flooring, double glazed windows, gas central heating and large storage cupboard. Sorry no smokers or pets applicable for this property. Available mid January 2018. EPC C.

£900 PCM

Fullers Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom garden maisonette. The property is located in close proximity to shops and amenities and is available early February. An early internal viewing is advised. EPC - B.

£925 PCM

Mercers



RECENTLY REDECORATED - Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom maisonette in Kingsland. This property benefits from newly fitted carpets, redecoration throughout, large rear garden and large living space throughout. AVAILABLE NOW. EPC - E.

£975 PCM

Kingsland



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom house located within walking distance to the shops and amenities of Staple Tye, an internal viewing is advised. The property is available early February. EPC - D

£1000 PCM

Milwards



Great sized family home in the Staple Tye area of Harlow, available early January. Partly furnished. Good sized bedrooms, modern kitchen and neutral decor. Benefits from garage and driveway parking. EPC D.

£1,100 PCM

Brockles Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom terraced home in Joyners Field. This property benefits from gas heating, a rear garden, close to shops and amenities as well as re-decoration throughout. This property is available Now! White goods included. EPC - C

£1200 PCM

Joyners Field



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom semi-detached home in the sought after area of Elwood, Church Langley. This property benefits from allocated parking, gas heating and is close to shops and amenities. Available Now. EPC - D.

1200 PCM

Elwood



The property comprises entrance hallway, downstairs WC, large fitted kitchen, lounge overlooking rear garden, three bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom and family bathroom. Garage included. EPC - C.

£1250 PCM

Doulton Close

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YOUR HOME

With Bake Off finalist and builder Richard Burr

Free rain



Fit a water butt to collect and store rainwater

If you're on a water meter – or you just care about the planet – a water butt is a must for keeping that garden lush and green in the summer months. They're easy to fit and if you have the space, you can pop one on each rainwater pipe of your house.

Here are my tips for fitting a rainwater butt...

THERE ARE LOTS OF PIPES OUTSIDE MY HOUSE – WHICH ONES DO I USE?

It is generally considered good practice to fit most buildings in the UK with roofs! Rain falls on roofs and collects in guttering, which then flows into downpipes and either soaks away in the surrounding ground or is piped away as waste.

Your downpipes are easy to recognise, as, if you look up at your roof, they are connected to your guttering. Do not get them mixed up with your soil pipes (which carry waste from your sinks, baths and toilets and into

the sewer) – your water butt will still fill up, but you won't want to spread the result on your garden.

Rain water pipes are usually 65-68mm in diameter for houses in the UK, soil downpipes are 100mm.

This guide will show you how to connect to PVC pipes, which are the most common type.

If you're choosing which downpipe to connect to, use one that gets its rain from a large portion of the roof – you won't fill a water butt up that quickly from a porch roof, for example.

But if you want to, you can also fix a butt to sheds, greenhouses and garages – as long as they have guttering.

KIT LIST YOU'LL NEED TO BUILD A WATER BUTT

To do this job you will need:

A water butt (with stand, to raise it off the ground)

A water butt diverter kit, to match your downpipe

A tape measure

A spirit level

A hack saw

A drill with a 25mm bit

A rubber mallet (or block of wood and a hammer)

A concrete paving slab and sharp sand (if fitting on an uneven surface)

BE SURE TO RAISE YOUR BUTT OFF THE GROUND

Depending on how much space you have, you can buy water butts that hold various volumes of water, from 25 litres up to over 500 litres. Slim ones are easy to come by and will fit discreetly down a side passage.

Most butts will be in the 100-120 litre range and are perfectly adequate. But no matter what sort you get, they need to be mounted on a solid surface and be high enough from the ground to be able to get a watering can or a bucket underneath.

Most water butts have a compatible stand or staging that they come with, otherwise you can easily pick one up.

Remember, a litre of water weighs

1kg, so depending on what capacity you buy, your stand will need to potentially carry quite a lot of weight.

If you are situating your water butt on an already solid surface, you can place the staging directly onto this. If you are putting the water butt on something less than solid (a flower bed, for example) you'll need to lay a paving slab nice and level.

To lay a level paving slab, clear away the loose soil where you want your slab to go, loosely spread 50-75mm of sharp sand and gently lay the slab on the sand.

Put a spirit level on the slab and tap it down with a rubber mallet (or lump of wood if you don't have one) until

it's firmly set in place.

The connector pipes for water butt diverters are usually 50cm long, so try not to set your butt further away from the downpipe than this.

FITTING THE DIVERTER

Once your staging or stand is set, you can plonk (technical term) the water butt on top of it and fit the piping.

Your butt will come with a tap fitting, which goes at the bottom and will be fairly easy to screw into place – make sure you tighten it up well, or you'll have a slow drip that will empty the butt annoyingly quickly.

Now you can fit the diverter. This is the piece of equipment that takes water from the downpipe and channels it into the butt.

It's very important that the diverter is attached to the downpipe below the top level of your water butt, or once the butt is full with rain, the butt will overflow, rather than allowing the water to just continue down the downpipe.

Using your spirit level, mark the top of the rim of your water butt against the downpipe. Measure 3cm down from here and cut through your downpipe with a hack saw (try to make the cut as level as possible). Pull the two ends of downpipe apart and insert the diverter, then push them back into place.

Measure 5cm down from your cut in the downpipe and use the spirit level to mark this on the water butt – this is the

height you'll need to drill the hole in the butt to connect the other end of the diverter. It should say on the diverter packet what diameter drill bit to use, but they are usually around 25mm.

Connect the pipe to the butt, clear up, run back indoors and wait patiently for it to rain.

I guarantee that fitting a water butt will give you a frustrating week of perfect weather while you wait for it to fill up.



Richard fits a water butt

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HOME STYLE

With Lesley Taylor

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

How the home could provide the clues to finding the perfect Christmas present

Father Christmas has it easy. When it comes to finding Christmas gifts, children around the world are not shy about sending him their letters detailing exactly what they want. And he gets mince pies and brandy for his trouble.

We don't have it as simple when it comes to buying for our grown-up friends. And if you don't know what perfume your pal prefers, are unsure of their clothing size or struggle to remember their favourite band, buying them a Christmas present can be somewhat challenging.

Which is why a gift for the home is always a good idea. Homeware can be practical, or simply aesthetically pleasing, but if you use their home as your inspiration, you won't go far wrong.

PICTURE THIS

Picture frames are a fabulously versatile gift. They come in all shapes, sizes, colours and styles; ensuring there is a frame to suit every home.

And when it comes to the content, don't leave it blank. Before wrapping, insert a picture of you and your friend. Or, for a more arty approach, buy a print showcasing the work of their favourite artist or even a special holiday destination.

SNUGGLE UP

Perfect for the Scandi fan in your life, choose a thick, warm blanket that just begs to be snuggled in. When it's not keeping your friend toasty warm throughout the dark, winter months, it can double as a homeware essential – adding texture and layers.

And don't worry too much about the wrapping either. Forget the paper and buy some gorgeous thick ribbon. Wrap the ribbon in a traditional parcel style before finishing off with a huge bow on top.



Struggling for the perfect present? Why not choose something for the home... A luxurious blanket or throw will double as a decorative accessory when not used for snuggling

A new tea set, like this one from Broste Copenhagen, is perfect for the tea lover in your life

DRINK UP

Chances are you will have shared a glass or two of your favourite tippie with your tough-to-buy-for friend. So why not buy them a new set of glasses – wine glasses, stylish champagne flutes or modern tumblers for their preferred spirit, plus a bottle of their drink of choice. Cocktails are very popular right now, especially anything involving gin. If you know your friend is partial to the odd G 'n' T, surprise them with a beautiful gin and tonic tea set – not only will it be a practical addition but it will look stunning in the home too.

If your pal steers clear, of alcohol, a monogrammed mug or new set of coffee cups could be the way forward.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TIPS

- Err on the side of luxury instead of practical
- Pick something they wouldn't necessarily buy themselves
- Use their hobbies and style to inspire your purchase
- Keep it personal; picture frames make a beautiful gift when given with a photo inside
- If in doubt, go with their favourite tippie – be it rum, gin, or even exotic tea



Photo frames
- large or small
- make fab presents, just be sure to fill them with some favourite memories

GET ORGANISED

Not sure about you, but my life seems to be getting busier and busier and each year I make the same New Year's Resolution: to get organised.

A diary or calendar is an essential; something most people could not do without. And fortunately, the market is flooded with gorgeous ones; everything from beautifully crafted hardbacks complete with pen and card holders to inspirational notepads with Instagram-worthy quotes for every day of the week.

As for calendars, you can get everything from expansive family planners through to sophisticated

midcentury modern-esque desk calendars.

And the golden rule when gifting something this functional: choose something a little more luxurious than the recipient would usually pick for themselves.

■ Lesley Taylor is the author of 10 interior design books and has appeared on a range of network TV shows, including This Morning, giving inspirational advice on home styling. She lives in Wales where she is the founder and design director of luxury interiors lifestyle store Taylors Etc.



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HOME ADVICE

With Alex Neill of Which?

Which?

It's become much colder. And, if long range forecasts are right, next year will start with new thermometer lows. At the same time, energy prices are set to rise.

But some will notice this double winter whammy less than others. They're the ones who have weatherproofed their homes. You don't need to spend much – almost everything is an easy do-it-yourself job – and you'll save on bills as well as being warm and cosy.

Many homes have radiators on outside walls, often under windows. The idea is to heat cold spots – but radiators generally pump out as much heat into the wall as into the room.

One solution is tin foil. You could get away with the stuff you'll use for your Christmas turkey and some sticky tape, but to do the job properly, buy specialist reflective radiator foil. Wilko, for instance, sells a 5m x 50cm roll for £7. Some retailers offer magnetic fittings so you can re-use and reposition the foil. This probably adds little if you have cavity wall insulation, but that's not all homes.

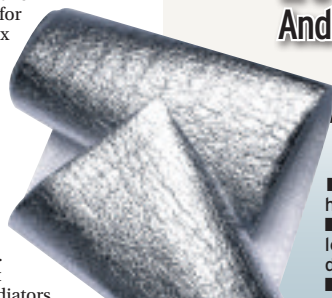
But if you put soft furniture against radiators, then all the foil in the world won't help much. Armchairs and sofas soak up heat – so push them somewhere else if you can.

Ensure you have the thickest curtains you can afford – although you can buy special linings for thinner drapes. But always pull them away during daylight – besides saving on lighting bills, even dull days produce some warmth from outside. Curtains over exterior doors also help.

If you're lucky enough to have space for a guest bedroom or other room you don't use much, keep the

WHEN THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL...

... a well-insulated home is quite delightful.
And here's how to do it without breaking the bank



Radiator reflective foam – 47cm x 4m, £9.44, in store at Homebase

QUICK FIXES FOR A COSY CLIMATE

- PIPE lagging is cheap and effective.
- BLEED radiators to ensure heat goes into rooms
- BARE floors are beautiful but lose heat. Put an old carpet down in winter weather.
- NEW windows are an expensive solution – unless old frames are in really bad condition.
- WHEN you finish baking, leave

oven doors open (but take care with children and pets).

- CONSIDER a radiator shelf in rooms with high ceilings.
- UNUSED chimneys can be blocked with DIY store gadgets – (£18-£22 from B&Q)
- A small piece of old carpet can prevent draughts from letterboxes.



When the snow lays deep and crisp and even you should be able to mooch around in a cosy home without worrying about the fuel bills

door closed to save wasting heat on space where no one is around.

Thermostat and timer settings are crucial. In cold weather, ensure the controls put the heating on earlier and close down later than normal so you can get up and go to bed in warmth. This is far more effective than setting the temperature to maximum – this

will mainly ensure huge bills as your heating system will have to work hard all day. In many homes during cold weather, the central heating will never achieve its top setting.

And don't forget draught excluders. Stick or screw-on strips for doors and windows work cost just a few pounds from DIY shops. For big gaps under doors, try a "sausage" – a piece of

stuffed material just over the width of the door. You could buy a top of the range model in expensive fabrics – the cheapest (and most ecological!) solution is a pair of old tights stuffed with worn out socks and T-shirts.

Insulate your loft and pipes and have heating on longer instead of turning up the thermostat



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WHEELS

ROAD TEST: Alfa Romeo Giulia 2.2 Turbodiesel 180 bhp Super by David Ward

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Alfa Romeo Giulia 2.2-litre Super
- **Price:** £32,990
- **Engine:** 2.2-litre 178bhp turbo diesel with 400 Nm torque
- **Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic with paddle shifts
- **Performance:** 0 to 62mph 7.1 seconds, top speed 143mph
- **Fuel Consumption:** 67.3mpg combined
- **CO2:** 109g/km
- **BiK:** 21%
- **Insurance Group:** 30
- **Warranty:** Three years/99,999 miles
- **On Sale:** Now



BLAST FROM THE PAST

T rue Alfa Romeo fans are no doubt pleased that the Italian marque has not only brought back an up-market executive saloon into the market place but also revived one of their famous model names from the past – the Giulia.

The original 1962 Giulia saloon survived until 1977 when it became the Giulietta and subsequent versions were labelled the 75, 155, 156 and finally the 159 before this new Giulia arrived which thankfully for many Alfa fans returns to rear-wheel drive.

This new evocative named Giulia, built on a new platform, is though now up against some heavyweight German opposition in this sector, notable the BMW 3 Series, Audi A4, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and our own Jaguar XE.

But as always with any new Alfa Romeo car it's first criteria is about having fashionable Italian styling and there's no doubt about it that this new Giulia is gorgeous looking and a tad different to any other current models out there in this sector.

There's a choice of two turbo diesel or petrol engines and four trim levels - Giulia, Super, Speciale or Veloce - and on-the-road prices range from £29,875 for the two-litre 200bhp turbo petrol entry-level model through to the all singing, all dancing 2.9-litre 510bhp Ferrari-engined Quadrifoglio version at £61,595.

It's the 2.2-litre turbo diesel engine with a choice of either 148bhp or 178bhp output which is expected to be the most popular here,

particularly the slightly more powerful which having tested it is ideally suited to this saloon.

Incidentally all new Giulia saloons - there's no estate version planned as there was with its 159 predecessor - have an eight-speed automatic gearbox as standard with no manual gearbox being offered here on this side of the English Channel.

With paddle shifts on the steering wheel driving the 178bhp Super version tested here the gear change up and down is smooth, swift and really impressive for those wanting to drive it in a sporty manner while leaving it normal D for automatic changing again it's responsive, quiet and certainly no slouch.

The improved driving manner is helped by a new electronic power steering system which is quicker, giving a better response than before and it gives a feeling to the driver of ebing more accurate too.

This particular diesel powered version is

an entertaining and fun car to drive, offering plenty of road grip with little road or wind noise at motorway speeds and as all models drivers have a choice of driving modes to switch to - advanced efficiency, natural and dynamic.

Keeping it in natural mode gives plenty of performance and it's also quiet and refined with the torquey 178bhp engine eager to rev and respond to the driver's demands and while the ride is on the firm side it won't unhinge those who may prefer a softer ride.

Even if driven in a more sporty vein as tested at times it's quite remarkable that this 178bhp engine still returns a decent fuel economy figure, dropping only to 52.4mpg, and in a slower style this soon crept up to 58.1mpg.

Inside the cabin is spacious for a car of this magnitude with noticeably good leg room in the rear seats for adults - helped no doubt by the car's long wheelbase - and the general furnishings and fittings are satisfactory even if not quite up to the high levels of trim quality seen in its German-made rivals.

The Super trim level comes with a mix of black cloth and leather seats, aluminium doorsills, sits on 18-inch alloy wheels and overall the cabin is smart looking and comfortable for the occupants.

There's now an upgraded infotainment system with now an eight-inch touch screen with sat nav and all the usual controls whilst the electric adjustable driver's seat makes it relatively easy to fit whoever is sitting behind the steering wheel.

Boot space is decent too at 480 litres

although there is quite a high lip to overcome when loading and unloading while elsewhere inside the car there are plenty of cubby holes for storing items.

The Super 178bhp test car came in at £32,990 on the road price but this total crept up to £36,720 with several options on board, notably £650 for electric seats, £275 for rear tinted windows, £255 for run flat tyres and a driver assist pack costing £950 which includes rear view camera, parking sensors and automatic high beam lights amongst others.

As with any such new car like the Giulia with its evocative name it's down to individual buyers to decided on what 'extra' they want on board and in this case I would certainly opt for the electric seats and driver assist pack which are well worth the extra cash outlay.

Overall it's great to see Alfa Romeo back in the executive saloon with a car that not only looks stylish but drives like an Alfa should - being fun, sporty and quite exciting when the driver insists.



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WHEELS

TEST DRIVE: Land Rover Discovery Td6 HSE Luxury by Mike Torpey

DIGITAL DISCOVERY
FOR ALL TERRAINS

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Land Rover Discovery Td6 HSE Luxury
- **Price:** £64,195
- **Mechanical:** 258bhp, 3.0-litre 6-cylinder turbodiesel engine driving four wheels via eight-speed automatic transmission
- **Max speed:** 130mph
- **0-62mph:** 7.7 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 39.2
- **Insurance group:** 42
- **CO2 emissions:** 189g/km
- **BiK rating:** 37%
- **Warranty:** 3years/unlimited miles



The perfect all-round family car may once have been a mid-size hatchback from a volume manufacturer, but times have changed.

There's a new principal on the podium and it's cool, connected and – with all the high class extras added on – quite costly.

Enter the new fifth generation Land Rover Discovery, arguably the best vehicle yet to emerge from the Solihull stable and as adept cruising the lanes and motorways of Britain as it is squelching through mud and clambering over rocks.

But while the latest Disco has enough hardware to interest NASA, the traditional stuff may not now necessarily be the model's greatest selling point.

That's because the Discovery has gone digital in a major way, now coming

choc-a-block with a dizzying amount of digital tech for the modern family on the move.

That means room for four iPads in the centre console, mounts for two more on the back of the front seats, 12-volt power sockets for everyone on board, nine USB ports and enough Wi-Fi to connect eight handheld devices.

And if that's still not enough then there's the InControl Touch Pro

infotainment system with 10-inch touchscreen in the dash, another pair of screens for middle row passengers and a smartphone docking station.

Lower slung and longer than before, the new Discovery is now a full seven seater, can tow up to 3.5 tonnes, has more ground clearance and can wade through 900mm of water.

Each of the seven seats can accommodate an adult and luggage capacity ranges from

a limited 258 litres with all the seats in use to 1,137 litres as a five seater. Drop the lot though and a cavernous 2,406 litres opens up.

Buyers have a choice of a 2.0-litre Ingenium diesel engine developing 240bhp and the tested Td6 V6 unit with 258bhp on tap. There's also a fiery V6 petrol variant.

The six-cylinder diesel works extremely well in a vehicle that's so smooth it feels like you're floating

through molten Galaxy (the chocolate one that is).

This really is a superb car to drive, and with slinky movie star looks it's a far cry from the more boxy Discos of old.

Solid performance is assured, the eight-speed automatic transmission seamless and over the course of 300 miles of mixed urban, motorway and mountain driving the Land Rover returned a reasonable 30.2 miles per gallon.

Go for the top notch HSE Luxury trim, with its associated tab of £64,195, and you can stretch out for a massage in Espresso Latte coloured perforated leather seats with ivory panelling plus a lengthy list of standard goodies.

They include a chilled centre console, a double glovebox and even a hidden compartment behind the air-con controls in the dashboard.

Ideal for a drive into the rough stuff – where the Disco's Terrain Response system now automatically sets up the vehicle for optimum traction.

It also has specialist cruise control which pulls the vehicle at safe speeds over hazardous surfaces, to the point that on a snow covered road all the driver has to do is steer.

Smart stuff from a car that continues to prove a game-changer.



WHEELS

TEST DRIVE: Fiat Spider 124 Lusso Plus by John Murdoch

ALONG CAME A SPIDER

AS luck would have it a roadster arrived during a week of near constant rain so I was unable to sample the delights of Fiat's 124 Spider with the roof down for even five minutes.

However, I still managed to enjoy my time with the Spider which marks the Italian brand's return to the two-seater roadster market

after a gap of more than ten years.

The Spider is built in Hiroshima, Japan alongside Mazda's excellent MX-5 and shares its platform and most of its mechanicals.

As a result it features fantastic rear-wheel-drive handling and provides superb driving pleasure.

The Spider's styling is more rounded and less sharp

than its Mazda cousin and every exterior panel is changed. The Spider has a retro touch to its looks and it also features Fiat's own MultiAir turbocharged engine.

It is slightly longer than the MX-5 and manages to look substantially different thanks to its large front grille, longer overhangs and flatter sides.

The changes give the Fiat its own sense of style and identity but the essentials are all taken from the Mazda – and that is no bad thing as the car is solidly built and fun to drive.

The Italian flavour sits under the stylish bonnet in the shape of Fiat's 138bhp 1.4-litre MultiAir engine. It may not rev in the same way as the naturally aspirated 1.5 and 2.0-litre units which feature in the Mazda but it does perform as well as the latter.

The engine is mated to an excellent six-speed gearbox

and thanks to its torque output it doesn't have to be worked hard to get the best out of its performance.

Unlike the Mazda the Spider is available in the UK with an automatic gearbox.

The Italian engine makes a decent noise and combined with the raspy exhaust it makes you feel as if you are driving a quicker performer.

Official figures claim the Fiat will cover the 0-62mph sprint in just 7.5 seconds and go on to a top speed of 134mph. It feels faster thanks to the mid-range torque and this also helps to make it a more relaxing cruiser.

The ride also feels more supple than in the Mazda thanks to suspension adjustments and the Spider deals well with lumps and bumps.

The steering is quick and accurate and is nicely weighted while the brakes provide excellent stopping power. Inside the compact



cabin is almost identical to the MX-5, although Fiat has opted to use some slightly different and softer materials.

The sporty dash is dominated by a central touchscreen infotainment system and there are a couple of storage compartments.

The boot offers 240 litres of space and will take a couple

of soft weekend bags, while the manually-operated fabric roof is shared with the Mazda and can easily be opened and closed even on the move.

It is a bit strange to think that Mazda is building the only serious alternative to its own massively successful roadster leaving buyers to make their choice mainly on the styling.





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Model shown: MG ZS Exclusive manual with Tri Coat paint (optional extra £695) in Dynamic Red at £16,190 OTR or £215.87 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. Offer shown available on MG Exclusive manual with solid paint at £15,495 OTR or £199 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months' Vehicle Excise Duty. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply. *0% APR: Conditional sale, 0% APR available on all MG ZS models until 31.12.2017. A minimum deposit of 20% applies. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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Representative example: Kia Rio 1.25 '2' 5dr, premium paint

Duration of agreement	49 months	48 Monthly payments of	£213.89
Cash price	£14,730.00	Optional final payment/GFV	£4,139.00
Scrappage saving	£2,000.00	Total amount payable	£14,405.72
Amount of credit	£12,730.00	Fixed rate of interest	4.52%
Interest charged	£1,675.72	Representative APR	8.90%

KIA PICANTO 1.25 '2' 5DR WITH PREMIUM PAINT OPTION

SCRAPPAGE PRICE £9,500
OR £154 A MONTH



Representative example: Kia Picanto 1.25 '2' 5dr, premium paint

Duration of agreement	49 months	48 Monthly payments of	£153.65
Cash price	£11,500.00	Optional final payment/GFV	£3,405.00
Scrappage saving	£2,000.00	Total amount payable	£10,708.20
Amount of credit	£9,500.00	Fixed rate of interest	4.52%
Interest charged	£1,280.20	Representative APR	8.90%



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17 (17)	Kia Picanto 'Sport' 1.25 Auto 5dr, Met Red, Only 3,000 Miles, Sat Nav, Reversing Camera, Climate Control, Air Con, Bluetooth, Privacy Glass, Special Alloys, Half Leather, Kia Warranty Until 30/03/2024	£11,699
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17 (17)	Kia Cee'd '3' Estate 1.6 Diesel 5dr 6-Speed Manual, White, Delivery Mileage, Sat Nav, Reversing Camera, Half Leather, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Air Con, Kia Warranty Until 29/06/2024, Great Saving On List Price!	£16,490
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16 (16)	Kia Sportage '2' 1.6 6-Speed Manual (New Shape), Silver, 20,000 Miles, Sat Nav, Reversing Camera, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Air Con, Kia Warranty Until 15/04/2023	£16,795
17 (17)	Kia Cee'd 'GT-Line' 1.6 Diesel 5dr 6-Speed Manual, Red, Delivery Mileage, Sat Nav, Reversing Camera, Front Ice Cube Lights, Half Leather, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Air Con, Kia Warranty Until 29/06/2024, Great Saving On List Price!	£16,890
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17 (17)	Kia Sportage 'XX-2' 2.0 Diesel Auto (New Shape), White, 4,000 Miles, Sat Nav, Reversing Camera, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Air Con, Kia Warranty Until 30/05/2023	£21,450
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17 (17)	Kia Cee'd '2' 1.6 Diesel Automatic 5dr, Met Black, 11,000 Miles, Sat Nav With Reversing Camera And Rear Parking Sensors, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, Climate Control, Air Con	£13,990
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£44 per week

2015 (65) Fiat 500 Pop Star,



£7,995

white, alloys, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, remote locking, only 8,000 miles,
£50 per week

2013 (63) Peugeot 107 1.0



£5,495

red, alloy wheels, air con, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, £0 a year Tax, 12,000 miles only
£35 per week

2013 (63) Fiat 500 1.2,



£5,995

black, alloys, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, remote locking, only 23,000 miles
£38 per week

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208 (63)£172 a month for 3 years
107 (63)£132 a month for 3 years
Fiat 500 (63)£158 a month for 3 years
Fiat (65)£172 a month for 3 years
Ford KA (13)£131 a month for 3 years
Peugeot 208 (13)£157 a month for 3 years

2011 (61) Nissan Qashqai N-Tec

grey, panoramic roof, reversing camera, sat nav, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, remote locking, 49,000 miles
£9,995 - £62 per week

2013 (63) Hyundai iX35,

White, 1.6, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, CD player, iPod, USB, Aux, alloys, remote locking, 41,000 miles
£9,995 - £62 per week

2013 (63) Suzuki SX4 1.6

5dr, Grey, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, air con, cruise control, Bluetooth
SOLD

£8,995 - £197 per week

2012 (12) Peugeot RCZ 1.6,

Grey, alloy wheels, air con, full leather heated seats, remote locking, cruise control, SAT NAV, parking sensors, e/windows, e/mirrors, 61,000 miles
£8,495 - £53 per week

2015 (65) Fiat 500 Pop Star,

White, alloys, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, remote locking, only 8,000 miles,
£7,995 - £50 per week

2011 (11) Nissan Juke Acenta Sport dCi,

Red, 5 dr, e/windows, e/mirrors, CD player, Bluetooth, cruise control, remote locking, power steering 59,000 miles
£6,995 - per week £44

2011 (11) Mini Cooper D,1.6, Diesel

Goodwood Green, e/windows, e/mirrors, cruise control, CD player, alloys, half leather, Diesel, air con
£6,995 - £44 per week

2011 (11) Hyundai i30 CRDi Automatic 1.6,

blue, 10,000 miles, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, air con, USB port, CD player
£6,995 - £44 per week

2013 (63) Fiat 500 1.2,

White, alloy wheels, remote locking, panoramic roof, Bluetooth, e/windows, e/mirrors, one owner, 30,000 miles only,
£6,495 - £41 per week

2014 (14) Hyundai i20,

5dr, red, air con, CD player, bluetooth, alloys, e/mirrors, e/windows, 28,000 miles, FSH, one owner
£5,995 - £38 per week

2010 (60) Renault Scenic 7 seat DCI,

Bronze, air con, e/mirrors, e/windows, 58,000 miles, 2 owners, CD player
£5,995 - £38 per week

2013 (63) Chevrolet Cruze 1.8, automatic,

estate, Silver, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, cruise control, CD player, Bluetooth, 43,000 miles
SOLD

£5,995 - £38 per week

2011 (11) Ford Focus Titanium,

Silver, 1.6, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, cruise control, CD player, Bluetooth, 43,000 miles
£5,995 - £38 per week

2013 (63) Fiat 500 1.2,

Black, alloys, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, remote locking, only 23,000 miles
£5,995 - £38 per week

2013 (13) Peugeot 208 1.2,

Black, air con, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, cd player, £20 a year Tax, one owner,
£5,995 - £38 per week

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2007 (07) Nissan Qashqai Acenta DCI,

black, remote locking, cruise control, CD player, climate control, e/windows, e/mirrors, Bluetooth, 65,000 miles, one owner
£5,995 - £38 per week

2010 (60) Citroen C3 Picasso Exclusive 1.6

HDI, Silver, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, CD player, air con, 2 owners, FSH, only 28,000 miles
£5,695 - £37 per week

2013 (63) Peugeot 107 1.0

red, alloy wheels, air con, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, £0 a year Tax, 12,000 miles only
£5,495 - £35 per week

2010 (60) Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTR + HDI,

Blue, alloys, air con, cruise control, parking sensors, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, £30 a year Tax, 23,000 miles only
£5,395 - £34 per week

2010 (10) Citroen DS3 1.4,

Blue, alloys, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, central locking, 40,000 miles
£5,395 - £34 per week

2012 (62) Fiat 500 1.2,

5 door, metallic, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, 36,000 miles
SOLD

£4,995 - £32 per week

2013 (13) Ford KA 1.2,

Blue, air con, remote locking, e/windows, CD player, £30 a year Tax, 40,000 miles only
£4,995 - £32 per week

2011 (61) Toyota Aygo 1.0,

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2008 (58) Renault Megan Convertible, Diesel,

Grey, panoramic roof, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, cruise control, air con, full leather interior, 53,000 miles
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silver, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, e/hood, CD player, 28,000 miles only
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2010 (60) Nissan Micra 1.6,

red, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, CD player, 65,000 miles
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blue, 5 dr, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, CD player, parking sensors, heated seats, remote locking, 22,000 miles
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WHEELS

TEST DRIVE: Mitsubishi ASX 5 2.2 by Edward Stephens

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Mitsubishi ASX 5 2.2 diesel 4WD
- **Price:** £28,905
- **Mechanical:** 147bhp, 2,268cc, 4cyl diesel engine driving four wheels via 6-speed automatic gearbox
- **Max speed:** 118mph
- **0-60mph:** 10.8 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 48.7
- **Insurance group:** 23
- **CO2 emissions:** 152g/km
- **BiK rating:** 30%
- **Warranty:** 5years/62,500 miles



WHEN it comes to trends in the world of motoring few have been stronger than the current one for SUVs and crossovers.

But one of the drawbacks of that is that is buying a model which is identical to huge numbers of others on virtually every public car park in every town in the country.

To find something which is good, which stands out from the crowd and gives you a sense of individuality isn't always easy. And this is where the Mitsubishi ASX comes in.

It's a car which sells more to people in the know than to the mass market so buying one means that – unlike with the Nissan Qashqai for example – you have little chance of parking next to one of its siblings every time you go to the supermarket.

Design-wise the ASX is a winner, particularly since its 2015 makeover, thanks to its high stance, sharp lines, and dramatic grille.

This particular model in lightening blue with cream leather upholstery certainly

proved to be a winner with everyone who took a close look at it thanks to a very vivid exterior and very up-market interior.

The ASX is available in four trim levels and with a choice of either two or four-wheel-drive.

Even the entry level ASX 2 comes well equipped, but step up to the ASX 5 tested here and you get all the bells and whistles including all-wheel-drive, Nappa leather seats and LED mood lighting

– not to mention blue tinted puddle lighting.

But it doesn't stop there. There's a vast panoramic glass sun roof with electric blind, keyless entry and start, satellite navigation and heated seats all round.

A seven-inch centrally set touch screen gives easy access to a host of on-board features and also doubles up as the monitor for the reversing camera which allows you to go backwards in ultimate safety.

Power comes from a 2.2-litre diesel engine mated to a six-speed automatic gearbox which, unusually today, still uses a dogleg system for the gear shift.

There are aluminium paddles behind the steering wheel – matching the new-look aluminium foot pedals – for manual gearchanges when you want to take total control although this seamless auto box works very well so there were few times when I used them.

The 147bhp engine has plenty of pulling power but I did find it a little noisier than I would have expected.

Despite a slightly soft suspension there is little roll on the ASX and I really enjoyed its handling and road holding. It has characteristics all of its own which when you get used to them allows you to push on hard at speed to give rewarding driving.

With a heritage for off-road driving like Mitsubishi's

you would expect the four-wheel-drive version of the ASX to be well equipped for the rough stuff and it is.

With the simple push of a button near the gear shift you can change from two-wheel-drive – the most economic mode – to four-wheel-drive automatic or when the going gets really tough four-wheel-drive lock.

Even in four-wheel-drive automatic the sensitive system can alter the drive from 98 per cent to the front wheels and just two per cent to the rear to a full 50 per cent to both front and rear depending upon the vehicle's needs, so ASX owners need have no fear of a bad winter.

Passengers get more than adequate leg room and the boot area will accommodate 419 litres of luggage with the seats in the upright position and 1,193 litres with them down and there is also additional space for small items beneath the boot floor.

In short the ASX offers a sensible all-round package with enjoyable driving and the reassurance of being able to leave the highway when you want to – without getting stuck.



WHEELS

MOTORING NEWS: By Stewart Smith

VAUXHALL'S ULTIMATE SUV



Vauxhall has introduced a new top-of-the-range Ultimate trim level to its Grandland X SUV line-up.

The Ultimate trim, which is also available on Vauxhall's other SUVs the Mokka X and the Crossland X, has a higher level of equipment as standard and is powered by a new 2.0-litre 177bhp turbo diesel engine with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The Grandland X has a selection of modern assistance and comfort features regardless of trim including Vauxhall's OnStar help system, dual zone climate control, lane departure warning and rear parking sensors.

Sitting on 19-inch bi-colour alloys, the new Ultimate Grandland X comes with automatic cruise control and a Denon premium sound system. Also standard are black

roof and door mirrors, alloy sports pedals, heated steering wheel, heated rear outer seats, 360-degree panoramic camera and LED adaptive forward lighting pack with projector headlights.

The new diesel engine is powerful, delivering 400Nm

of torque at 2,000rpm and acceleration is claimed at 0-60mph in 8.6 seconds with a top speed of 133mph and offers official CO2 emissions of 128g/km with 57.6mpg combined.

The new Grandland X Ultimate is priced from £33,995.



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Bishop's Stortford College
 SENIOR SCHOOL

PART-TIME TEACHER OF HISTORY

Maternity cover required for February 2018

We are looking for an excellent classroom practitioner to join this committed team of specialist teachers in this highly successful Department, who can teach GCSE and A Level History. The department offers supportive and experienced colleagues working within a well-resourced Departmental area. Salary according to qualification and experience is above national average.

Closing date: 11th December 2017 at 5pm

For an application form and further details, please visit
www.bishopsstortfordcollege.org or contact
 Angela Wright on 01279 838578 or hr@bishopsstortfordcollege.org



Building Confidence for Life

We are an equal opportunities employer and are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; references will be taken prior to interview and an enhanced DBS check is required.

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Please contact Simon on 01279 725028 or email simon@orchardworksrecovery.uk

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ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE & PREP SCHOOL

Catholic, Co-educational, Day and Boarding School
for Children aged 3-18 (HMC & IAPS)

TEA TIME CLUB LEADER

(Required asap)

St Edmund's Prep School require a Tea Time Club Leader, to lead and manage the day-to-day organisation of the Tea Timers' Club. Every day 3.00pm to 6.00pm.

Providing safe, creative, appropriate play opportunities, preparing activities and organising the programme.

The successful candidate must have a minimum of NVQ level 3 in childcare. A willingness to undertake Paediatric 1st Aid training is a must.

You will have the responsibility to have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection procedures detailed in the College's policies and code of conduct.

Whilst we are proud to be England's oldest Catholic school, we welcome applications from all colleagues who wish to be part of our special ethos.

If you would like to apply please visit our website in order to download an application pack www.stedmundscollege.org/information/job-opportunities/

Please return your completed application pack to the HR department by Midday on the 14th December 2017, for interviews to take place after the Christmas holidays.

Telephone: 01920 824335

Email: hr@stedmundscollege.org

Old Hall Green, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG11 1DS

The College is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, therefore, all candidates will be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check. We will seek references on short-listed candidates that will include questions about past disciplinary actions or allegations in relation to behaviour with children and may approach previous employers for information to verify particular experience or qualifications before interview.



COPPER PIPELINE INSTALLATION/MEDICAL GAS ENGINEERS TRAINEES REQUIRED

Enthusiastic, reliable and hard-working Trainees, ideally College leavers, to work alongside an experienced Engineer on a day to day basis. Ability to work to deadlines, keen attention to detail, working as part of a team and independently in the future.

Full industry training and certification given to the right candidates.

CSCS card would be beneficial but not essential.

Must possess a full clean driving licence.

Please e-mail your CV to
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good prices. just call
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Local collector seeks
especially pre-1970
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equipment. 35mm or
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think of interest. Bellows
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ptturnerphotographics@gmail.com

Tel: 07929 340709



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24/7 Advertising for private and trade

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MARKS & SPENCER boys black
leather jacket size 7 - 8 years.
Great quality and worn once so ex-
cellent condition. (Chelmsford Area) £8
Tel: 01245 469544

Baby & Nursery Equipment

LYPSKI FEEDING CHAIRS X 2. Iden-
tifiable chairs in blue, yellow, green. Sui-
table from 6 months. Both in very
good condition. Price £10 each or
the pair for £15 Tel: 01277 652018

MOSES BASKET Excellent condition
with mattress and checked covers/
blue/green/yellow £7.50 Tel: 07736
165651

STAIRGATE And Highchair Lindam
stairgate and folding highchair. Both
well usable. £12 each. £12 Tel:
01245 400026

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mini electric breast pump. Hardly
used, still in box. Originally bought
from John Lewis, currently selling
for £80, will accept £30. Tel:
01279842334 £30 ovno 01279
842334

Baby & Nursery Equipment

MOTHERCARE Moses Basket
Mothercare Moses Basket with
stand and bedding £10 07526
404290

BABY bath set Baby bath with
seat and top and taller £5 07526
404290

TRAVEL Cot Britax travel cot £8
07526 404290

Child Safety

CAR seat Britax rear facing car
seat £5 07526 404290

HAUK SHOPPER travel system Im-
maculate condition. Pram seat (never
used), carry cot & car seat. With
box and instructions. Grey. Pls tel/
call. Email not working. £80 Tel:
07866 820684

Luggage

ENNY HANDBAG new with shoulder
strap colour Red size 23 x 17cm 2
zipped compartments 2 stud close
with protective storage bag cost £50
make ideal present accept £20 Tel:
01277 221068

DUNLOP CASE trolley type suitable
as cabin luggage, black with red
trim, only used once or twice, vgc
£12

Luggage

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grey/green, very pretty, unused, still
with price tag of £80. Ideal Christmas
gift £40 Tel: 01277 652018

Bicycles & Accessories

BICYCLE ELECTRIC

For Sale
"Powabyke" electric power
bike, 26" wheel, 7 Speed,
Silver in colour. About 8
years old but has had very
little use and always stored
in a garage. Hence very good
condition. Can be used as
pedal only, pedal assist with
electric or electric power only.
Simple twist and go speed
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real bargain.
Broomfield side of town
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Tel: 07841 529080

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BLUE AND WHITE BIKE MOUNTAIN
BIKE £30.00 Tel: 07955 734642

BOYS BIKE Terrain Etna blue &
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ovno Tel: 07954 344025

BOYS BIKE 24" WHEEL RED PRO-
FESSIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE £30.00
Tel: 07955 734642

GIRLS BIKE 24" WHEEL PINK
MOUNTAIN BIKE £30.00 Tel: 07955
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(approx 36" chest). Navy. Fur lined.
All zips/lags working. Rarely worn. Ex-
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CLOTHES for him Mens Black
Dinner Suit with Satin Lapels Chest
40 inch waist 36 inch. Worn once
and cleaned - superb condition £28
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9386161

CLOTHING for Him "BE THE
HOST WITH THE MOST" - Mens
White Tuxedo Jacket Size 42R
worn once - Superdry Condition £35
ovno Tel: 07470 826534 or 0737
9386161

CLOTHES for him Mens Sports
Jacket - Brand new with Sales Tags.
M&S "Italian collection" - Wool and
Synthetic. Size 42R Medium Light
Brown Check £35 ovno Tel: 07470
826534 or 0737 9386161

ITALIAN PURE WOOL SUIT by Mario
Barutti, dark blue, double breasted
44" chest, trousers 36" waist/33"
length only worn once, excellent con-
dition £90 ovno Tel: 01277 652018

Clothes for Her

RALPH LAUREN T-SHIRT Unworn T-
shirt Deckhand Blue, round neck,
large polo logo plus number 9 logo
on sleeve, in R/L presentation box.
40 inch chest £20. 01245 420725
£20 Tel: 01245 420725

CLOTHES for Him BE THE HOST
WITH THE MOST" Mens White
Tuxedo Jacket - Worn only once -
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165651

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Extremely warm and in vgc. Size
10/12. Purchased from Selfridges cost
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LADIES SUIT jacket and skirt by
Austin Reed, size 12, dark navy with
fleck, never been worn cost £330,
price tags still on garments £75 Tel:
01277 652018

NEXT SHORTS Next Mens 'skinny'
jean shorts 30" (76cm) worn for one
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32" long by British tailor, Dunn &
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652018

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ting £75. USAAF CAMMO jackets,
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gain £95 Tel: 01277 200530

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medium size for sale £40 Tel: 01277
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hardly worn - bargain £30 Tel:
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CAMEL COAT camel coat size 14
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ovno Tel: 01245 443149

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FAKE Barbour Ladies Jacket Black,
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length with cord collar and zip off
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£40 ovno 01279 842334

Clothing Accessories

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£1,000

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£15 ono
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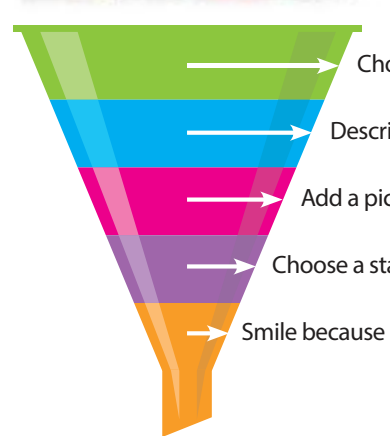
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2 BURGUNDY rugs 2 Razzle Dazzle Burgundy rugs 1 - 180x120 and 1 - 240x170. 100% Acrylic Handwoven Origin India. Photos available buyer collects Springfield £65 Tel: 07831 800224 or 07989841991

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Photography

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PRINTER CANON P130 MG3550 wireless multifunction printer/scanner with Apple AirPrint & power cable. Good condition, no ink cartridges. Ring after 7.00pm £20.00 ono Tel: 01245 610330

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LECRUSET FRYING PAN - Cast iron frying pan, 30cms in diameter. Colour volcanic (orange). Very good condition. £45 Tel: 07776 225500 or 01245223500

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Public Notices

Essex County Council

(High Street, Roydon)
(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic)
Order 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council intends, not less than seven days from the date of this notice, to make the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of High Street, Roydon in the District of Epping Forest, from a point approximately 100m north of its junction with The Granary for a distance of approximately 20m in a northerly direction (10m either side of railway crossing). The closure is scheduled to commence on 9th January 2018 for 2 days, or where stated on a valid permit (KL168BGK-20-10-090118 - Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while inspection/maintenance of the level crossing works are undertaken by Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd.

An alternative route is available via High Street, Harlow Road, Roydon Road, Elizabeth Way, Edinburg Way, A414 between Northern Town Boundary And Burnt Mill Roundabout and vice versa.

The Order will come into effect on 14th December 2017 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

(Paringdon Road, Harlow)
(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic)
Order 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of Paringdon Road, Harlow in the District of Harlow, from its junction with Parnalls Road to its junction with Commons Road, a distance of approximately 69m. The closure is scheduled to commence on 2nd January 2018 for 3 days, or where stated on a valid permit (EP201EH2334850 - Essex County Council). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while carriageway repair works are undertaken by Essex County Council.

An alternative route is available via Paringdon Road, Southern Way, Parnall Road, Peterswood and vice versa.

The Order came into effect on 30th November 2017 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

STREET TRADING

NOTICE is hereby given that an application has been received for the grant of Licence for Street Trading for the sale by retail of:

- Sandwiches, Cakes, Biscuits, Sausage Rolls, Pasties, Drinks and Crisps on the following days and times:
- Monday to Friday from 08:00 hours to 14:00 hours at the location of:
- Licence Streets of Harlow

Any person wishing to object to the granting of the above licence should write, giving reasons, to: Licensing Department Harlow Council

Civic Centre The Water Gardens Harlow, Essex, CM20 1WG

Objections to be received by 21 December 2017

Debbie Wright Licensing Administrator

7 December 2017

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) Directions 1992

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by Harlow District Council. These applications and others received can be inspected online at www.harlow.gov.uk or at Harlow Council Planning Services, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex CM20 1WG on Monday-Friday, 9am-4.45pm. If you are unable to view the plans during these times, please telephone Planning Services on 01279 446856 where a suitable appointment can be made with the relevant case officer.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Application No	HW/FUL/17/00555	Ward: Toddbrook
Application Type	Full Application	
Location	Flat Block 235-246 Northbrooks, Harlow, Essex	
Proposal	Replace existing windows and doors with PVCu double-glazed windows and doors, colour white.	

Reason for Advert	Harlow District Council Application
Application No	HW/HSE/17/00478
Application Type	Householder Application
Location	45 Sheering Road, Harlow, Essex CM17 0JN
Proposal	Single-storey extension to form parent annexe, detached garage and new boundary fence.

Reason for Advert	Affects Setting of Conservation Area
Harlow Star Publication 7 December 2017	

WILLIAM JAMES BARRALL
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 47 Bury Road Harlow CM17 0EE, who died on 16/10/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 16/02/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Departs Feb 23, Mar 9 & Nov 2 2018

Much more than an escape to the winter sunshine, Tenerife is truly an island of contrasts - miles of sun-drenched coastline overlooked by the snow-capped peak of Mount Teide - Spain's highest mountain. You stay in the north part of the island where the lush, tropical landscape contrasts with the arid terrain of the south. Discover the historic mansions in La Laguna and the wonderful botanic gardens of La Orotava where exotic plants brought from the New World in the 18th century continue to flourish.

Tour highlights

- ✓ Return direct flights from Luton & Stansted
- ✓ 7 nights 4-star HB accommodation in Puerto de la Cruz
- ✓ Visits to the UNESCO listed town of La Laguna, the Botanic Garden Orotava Valley, and Mount Teide
- ✓ Services of a tour representative



Mijas, Cordoba & the White Villages of Andalusia

8 days from £639 Flying direct from Luton & Stansted
Departs Mar 10, Apr 19, Oct 4 & 11 2018

On this holiday you spend a week in white-painted Mijas. From Mijas there are guided visits to the timeless old UNESCO city of Cordoba, with its Mezquita church, and to Picasso's home city of Malaga. All these remarkable sights are bathed in the year-round warmth of the Andalusian sunshine!

Tour highlights

- ✓ Return direct flights from Luton & Stansted
- ✓ 7 nights 4* HB hotel accommodation in Mijas
- ✓ Excursion to Cordoba with guided tour of the Mezquita
- ✓ Orientation walk in Mijas
- ✓ Visit to Malaga with a tour through the historic centre
- ✓ Services of a local representative



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APRIL & OCTOBER

Carcassonne, Cathar Country & Catalonia

8 days from £699 Flying direct from Luton & Stansted
Departs Apr 19, May 10, Jun 14, Sep 6, 13 & Oct 4 2018

Cathar country in Languedoc-Roussillon is a land of legend, mystery and stunning scenery. In Carcassonne you will find the most complete medieval walled city in Europe. As well as getting to know this fascinating part of France you will also spend a couple of days on the Spanish coast with a chance to visit the Roman town of Tarragona.

Tour highlights

- ✓ Return direct flights from Luton & Stansted
- ✓ 7 nights HB hotel accommodation (3 on the Spanish coast & 4 in Amelie-les-Bains in France)
- ✓ Full day excursion to Carcassonne and Rennes-le-Chateau
- ✓ Free time in Figueres and Barcelona
- ✓ Services of a tour representative



Walking - Portugal - the Algarve

8 days from £759
Flying direct from Luton & Stansted
Departs Feb 11, Mar 15, May 9, 16, Sep 27 & Oct 4 2018

Discover the real beauty of the Algarve where the coastline and countryside remain unspoilt. Cliff tops and beaches, rivers and orchards and even historic towns like Silves and Lagos. Your resort, Armação de Pêra, boasts one of the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve, with pretty coves and a panorama of brightly coloured fishing boats.

Tour highlights

- ✓ Return direct flights from Luton & Stansted
- ✓ 7 nights HB accommodation in the 4* Holiday Inn on the beach at Armação de Pêra
- ✓ 3 guided walks
- ✓ Services of a tour representative



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN MARCH & OCTOBER

Walking in Catalonia - Trails & Rails

8 days from £649
Flying direct from Luton & Stansted
Departs Mar 14, May 16 & Oct 10 2018

From your base on the coast there are a few local train lines which pass through unspoilt Catalan countryside, where pretty villages huddle around their church and wine cellar, unchanged by time. You use three of these lines to enjoy guided walks in the Priorat, Montblanc and the Prades Mountains. In your spare time you can take the mainline trains to Barcelona or Tarragona.

Tour highlights

- ✓ Return direct flights from Luton & Stansted
- ✓ 7 nights HB accommodation on the Costa Dorada
- ✓ Three fully guided walks; return rail fares to the walks
- ✓ Option to extend your holiday
- ✓ Services of a tour representative

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Claire Petulengro
YOUR STARS WITH

ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 20
The temptation to mix business with pleasure is strong in your stars but try to ensure that you keep a slow pace. It's the key to not regretting the actions you make in the days ahead. A project you were about to give up on, is given a boost by someone you did not think was on your side. Grab this opportunity and run with it. Ring now to work out what you really need from a partner.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 300 65p PER MINUTE

TAURUS APRIL 21 - MAY 21
I can see that recent events have left you with raw emotions and very little time to think. Try to feel your way through this week, rather than going for the logical option. It's the best way for you to feel happy and content with the decisions you will be making. A new face in the workplace links to your future in more ways than you could possibly imagine. Ring now to find out about tomorrow today.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 301 65p PER MINUTE

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21
You finally start to gain back your confidence in the areas which capped your courage last month. Older faces in your life give good advice and know you better than you think. Listen when they speak. Travel is well started, but don't lend money to those who may not be able to pay it back when they say. Ring now to hear how Mars can help you to build bridges in delicate family affairs.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 302 65p PER MINUTE

CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22
Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom. You have spent far too much time in recent weeks looking to others for answers to life, when both you and I know you are the one who holds the key to your own happiness. Confidence which Saturn the great teacher gives you in the days ahead, works miracles. Ring now so I can help you make the most of life and love.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 303 65p PER MINUTE

LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 23
Are you being pushed into doing what others want or are you really making your own decisions right now? I don't think you really know. I do think that if you took some time out, you would soon see that you are an individual sign who has the right to make up their own story and live it as they want not as others dictate. Ring now to take the first step towards freedom and happiness.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 304 65p PER MINUTE

VIRGO AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 22
You are the hero of your own story this week so don't even think about trying to be the same as everyone else. Fun times link to you doing what you want when you want. Many of you will be thinking of cancelling plans you've made for Christmas and that's fine. Be honest with others instead of promising what you know you can't commit to. Ring now and I'll tell you a secret.

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LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23
Drama which you were involved in was not really your story, but you seem to have become more entangled in it than you had intended. Your emotive nature often sees you helping those who can't help themselves but. Try to make a more conscious effort to not get too deep. Ring now to hear why flexibility in your social arrangements could well change the course of your future.

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SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21
Nothing seems straightforward lately does it Scorpio? It can be though, if you speak from the heart. Don't allow yourself to be pushed into saying things which you know deep down you can't commit to. Mars, your ruling planet, gives you an alternative view of your future, which can see you making some of your most exciting decisions yet. Ring now to reveal all.

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SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 20
Stop chasing the money and start chasing the passion. You see as you proceed through this week, that you don't like doing certain things no matter how good they look to others. You are a genuine sign who needs to have a passion for what they do. This changes what you will and will not commit to this month. Ring now to hear why it's worth taking gambles in love this weekend.

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CAPRICORN DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 20
Are you being used as a scapegoat for what went wrong, or did you really begin the drama that is unwelcome? Step back and take a look at the bigger picture my friend and you will soon see that you are the master of your own destiny. You don't have to be told what to do by anyone. This independent stance can help you keep the love and respect of those involved. Ring now for the full story.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 309 65p PER MINUTE

AQUARIUS JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19
Are you still living in the past? You can be honest and answer that question, but it does seem from your stars, that you are making your decisions based on what happened before and not on what is happening right now. A more open mind is yours from Thursday, when new influences give you an alternative view on current problems and opportunities. Ring now to bring out your best assets.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL 0911 8532 310 65p PER MINUTE

PISCES FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
A year from now you may wish you started today. Therefore, you would be wise to lay down the ground plans and take the first step towards the future you truly want. Gemini link to a better social life which is slowly but surely taking place. A flirtatious feel to your chart makes this weekend a very memorable one. Ring now to hear who wasn't on your side but now is.

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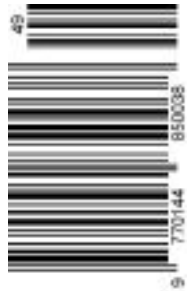
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Saint Nicholas School swimmers

Saint Nicholas School make a splash at regionals

PUPILS from Saint Nicholas School, Harlow have continued their winning ways with a number of successes in the pool. The annual regional Independent Schools Association swimming event held at Crown

Pool in Ipswich, played host to more than 20 ISA schools from the East of England region. All schools were competing for a place in the finals which will be held at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Stratford in January.

Following an impressive display from their swimmers, Saint Nicholas will have an impressive six finalists who will be raring to go at the London 2012 venue. Lucy Le Huquet, Ethan Ryan

and Henry Morgan all came first in their breaststroke races earning them a place in the nationals. Ellie Cronin booked her place in the backstroke and Joseph Forsdike, Claudia King, Le Huquet and Cronin won and

also qualified in the freestyle.

The school gained second place overall, losing out by a very small margin, and Saint Nicholas were proud to take first place in a number of age categories.

Sharon's on Wright track in park race

HARLOW Running Club member Sharon Wright improved her own female Vet 35 club record at the Victoria Park Half Marathon.

She finished in 49th place out of 659 finishers, and second in her age group, in an excellent personal best time of 1hr 29min 43sec.

First home was Rich Hynes in 18th place in a fantastic 1.23.33, also a PB, and he was followed by Martyn Coulter, 56th in 1.30.29 (PB), and Holly Nairn 320th in 1.53.39 (PB).

Meanwhile, at the Bedford Half Marathon, Colin Moody crossed the finish line in 285th place out of a field of 954 in 1.41.41.

Dionne Jones raced in the gruelling Gatliff Ultra Marathon, a 50k multi-terrain event in Kent. She finished the ladies race in 23rd place out of 41 finishers in an exhausting 9.23.34.

In the men's race, Darren Coates was 72nd out of 113 finishers in 9.24.43 and Andrew Smith was 74th in 9.26.39.

At the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park 10k, Jim Bates finished in 165th place out of 420 finishers and was second Vet 70 in 49.34.

Harlow had three representatives in the Essex Vets Cross Country Championships at Writtle. John Tennant finished in 81st place out of 123 finishers in 39.39, while Sean Flynn was 89th in 40.46 and Martin McColgan 104th in 44.11.

Craig Segal was victorious at the Harlow parkrun 5K, clocking a superb 19:24 to beat off opposition from 124 finishers.

Third

He was followed home by: Danny McCree, second in 19:45; Andy Kitson, third in 20:17; Ben Chitiyo, fourth in 20:49; Martin Westley, sixth in 21:35; Catherine Ridge, 16th and third female in 23:50; Terry Ridge, 17th in 23:51; Graham Saville, 20th and first Vet 60 in 24:11; David Morley, 28th in 24:59; Andy Smith, 31st in 25:29; Louise Cootes, 62nd in 29:17; Debbie Barry, 63rd and first female Vet 55 in 29:17; Austin Nyamande, 65th in 29:33; Jane Evans, 67th in 29:46; Hossein Erfani, 70th in 30:36; Alan Wellbelove, 92nd in 34:21 and Sara Coombe, 123rd in 47:27.

At the Bishop's Stortford parkrun, Jim Martin was eighth out of 213 finishers in a PB time of 20:22.

He was followed by: Justin Patten, 61st in 24:56; Laura Prime, 98th in 26:51 (PB); Janice Page, 100th and first Female Vet 55 in 27:04; Jason Haigh, 119th in 28:11; Debbie Page, 120th in 28:13 and Joanne Mills 173rd and first female Vet 70 in 31:39.

At the Gunpowder parkrun in Waltham Abbey, Daniel Jephcott was runner up out of 173 finishers, clocking 18:48.

Spencer Brooks finished in 22nd place out of 117 finishers at the Hatfield parkrun in 23:04.

Read all about it as Alex scores winner

Hawks battle to maximum points over lowly Worthing

A LAST minute goal from Alex Read secured a vital win for Harlow in the bottom of the table clash against Worthing on Saturday.

Worthing had twice taken the lead in this Bostik League Premier Division clash, but were pegged back both times as each side finished the game with ten men.

Hawks manager Danny Chapman was delighted to take maximum points.

"We needed three points on the board as a team and as individuals, so we're really pleased," he said. "We've gone behind twice in the first half and ended up winning – that shows the character in the group."

"The players showed the confidence is there. We were well worth the win, we were in the ascendancy, especially in the second half."

"We didn't play high enough up the first half, but in the second half we did and they very rarely

got out of their own half."

Worthing made a perfect start as Kieron Pamment hit a second minute pile driver past keeper David Hughes who was left standing.

The hosts deservedly levelled on 15 minutes when Ibrahima Sonko found himself unmarked in the box and headed home Tommie Fagg's corner.

Ascendancy

Harlow were in the ascendancy, and creating the majority of chances. Read tried his luck from 25 yards but couldn't get enough power behind the shot.

Sonko then had another header from a corner, but it cleared the bar.

With half an hour played, Worthing took the lead against the run of play, when Alex Parsons saw his cross intercepted and Reece Myles-Meekums finished well.

At the other end, Kieron Pam-



Harlow's Ibrahima Sonko rises for a header in the match against Worthing

Photo: ALISON JENKINS

ment's curling shot cannoned off the post as the Hawks were left off.

On the stroke of half-time Harlow drew level again. Jared Small's low cross found Fabion Simms in the box, and he picked

his spot just inside the post.

The Hawks came out firing in the second half, and their pressure paid dividends as they created several chances.

Jared Small dragged a shot wide of the post, and then Alex Read had an effort blocked that fell to Fagg who put the rebound wide.

The game could have turned when the Hawks were reduced to ten men with Jidefo Maduako shown a straight red card for an innocuous looking challenge.

"I've seen him go to ground and I couldn't see the tackle but he says it wasn't a red," said Chapman.

The numbers were evened up on 81 minutes however when Worthing's Ben Pop also harshly saw red for a sliding challenge.

Harlow pushed hard for the winner.

Jared Small collected Read's low cross, but he was unable to turn home from just a couple of

yards out with the goal gaping.

Read then went through on goal, but was tackled just as he shaped to shoot.

With a minute to go, Worthing keeper Lucas Cavnagari tried to chip the ball over Read, but the Hawks striker rifled the ball in off the crossbar from close range to seal the win.

■ HARLOW'S match at Burgess Hill on Tuesday night was abandoned due to floodlight failure.

The lights went out in the 11th minute, and after officials from Burgess Hill investigated the issue, it was deemed to be a problem with the incoming supply.

However, with no quick repair to the fault in sight the referee had no option but to abandon the match.

Hawks travel to Met Police this Saturday.

"We have to have that belief we have at home and take that to away games with us," added Chapman.